

Approval of the Law on meal tickets

24 October 2017

In brief

The Law on meal tickets has been approved to regulate the granting of meal tickets by employers, the status of meal tickets operators (vendors) and the relationships between meal tickets operators, employers and public food providers.

In detail

Meal tickets are an extra salary benefit granted to employees as meal allowances. The tickets may be issued on paper or in electronic format and used to purchase meals.

The nominal deductible amount of a meal ticket is between MDL 35 and 45, and indexed annually based on consumer prices index increases. If the ticket value exceeds MDL 45, the difference is not deductible for tax purposes.

Meal tickets are granted to employees proportionally to the number of days actually worked within the respective month.

Part-time employees may benefit from meal tickets granted only by the employer at their primary workplace.

Employees may only use their meal tickets at public food providers, which have a

services contract with the tickets operator.

Meal tickets may only be used to buy food products. Use of meal tickets to pay for alcoholic beverages and tobacco products is prohibited, as is exchanging them for cash.

Meal vouchers are not transferrable and may only be used by the holding employee.

A paper-based meal ticket is only valid for six months as of its issuance. The validity term on both paper-based and electronic meal tickets is explicitly indicated in their content.

Only companies that meet certain requirements established by law and that have obtained a licence to carry out this type of activity are allowed to become meal tickets operators.

Meal tickets granted under the conditions set by the Law on meal tickets represent income not subject to mandatory state

social security contributions, health insurance contributions and personal income tax, nor are they subject to VAT. Costs related to granting of meal tickets are deductible for corporate income tax purposes.

Meal tickets are optional salary benefits and the employer is prohibited from deducting the value of the meal tickets from the salary of employees who benefit from meal tickets.

[Source: Law on meal tickets no. 166 dated 21 September 2017, Official Monitor no. 364-370 dated 20 October 2017]

The takeaway

Granting of meal tickets is an employer right, not an obligation.

Meal tickets are subject to a special tax regime.

The law is applicable as of 20 October 2017.

Let's talk

For a deeper discussion of how this new legislation might affect your business, please contact:



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