

The administrative approval system reform

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On 22nd August, 2012, after the executive meeting of the State Council which was presided over by PM Wen Jiabao, China released a statement to remove and modify 314 administrative examination and approval items in order to reform the administrative approval system. Guangdong Province was chosen as the first pilot region of the reform during the 12th Five-Year Plan period (2011-2015) after this statement release.

According to the statement, in the 314 modified items, 184 items will be cancelled, the power to approve 117 items will be handed down to government departments at lower levels, and 13 items will be combined with other items. This reform will mainly focus on the fields of investment and social projects, especially on real economy, small and micro-sized enterprises and private investments.

The administrative approval system reform of China started since 2001 and had been modified five times in the last ten years. As to date, the State Council had moved and modified 2497 administrative approval items in total, which represents 69.3% of total original items. Guangdong province had justified administrative approval system for four times respectively in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2009, which totally cut and modified 2300 administrative approval and examination items.

The list below shows examples of administrative approval system reform by People's Government of Guangdong Province in 2012. These examples are included in the first round of this reform with total 354 amended items. In the future, Guangdong Province will release more amendments on administrative approval system reform.

➤ Items removed from administrative approval system in Guangdong Province Government

Original Executive Organs	Cut Items	Comment
Economic Information	and Preliminary inspection of market access for automotive	Transferred into non-administrative approval item"

Headquarters

Meşrutiyet Caddesi,
No: 46 Tepebaşı 34420
İstanbul – Turkey
T +90 (212) 249 19 29
F +90 (212) 249 13 50
E tusiad@tusiad.org

Ankara

İran Caddesi, No: 39/4
Gaziosmanpaşa 06700
Ankara – Turkey
T +90 (312) 468 10 11
F +90 (312) 428 86 76
E ankoffice@tusiad.org

Brussels

13, Avenue des Gaulois, 1040
Brussels – Belgium
T +32 (2) 736 40 47
F +32 (2) 736 3993
E bxloffice@tusiad.org

Washington D.C.

1250 24th Street,
N.W. Suite Nr. 300,
Washington D.C. 20037 USA
T +1 (202) 776 77 70
F +1 (202) 776 77 71
E usoffice@tusiad.us

Berlin

Märkisches Ufer, 28
Berlin 10179 Germany
T +49 (30) 288 786 300
F +49(30) 288 786 399
E berlinoffice@tusiad.org

Paris

33, Rue de Galilée 75116
Paris – France
T +33 (1) 44 43 55 35
F +33 (1) 44 43 55 46
E parisoffice@tusiad.org

Beijing

Beijing Lufthansa Centre,
Office C-319, Beijing 100016
P. R. China
T +86 (10) 6462 2066
F +86 (10) 6462 2067
E tusiad.china@euccc.com.cn

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F +90 (312) 428 86 76
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E bxloffice@tusiad.org

Washington D.C.

1250 24th Street,
N.W. Suite Nr. 300,
Washington D.C. 20037 USA
T +1 (202) 776 77 70
F +1 (202) 776 77 71
E usoffice@tusiad.us

Berlin

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Berlin 10179 Germany
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F +49(30) 288 786 399
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Commission	manufacturer	Preliminary inspection and on-site administrative inspection of automotive manufacturers and products ”	
	Evaluation of top 100 private enterprises		
	Preliminary approval of tax exemption of major technical equipment import	Directly transferred to national regulatory authorities	
Ethnic Commission	Affairs	Approval of establishing business service outlets in provincial venues for religious activities	
Civil Department	Affairs	Approval of applications of establishing welfare institutes by foreign nationals	
Communications Department		inspection of opening road transportation enterprises invested by foreigners	
Foreign Trade and Economy Cooperation Office		inspection and approval of changing names, investor names and addresses of foreign companies	
		inspection of management and funds of foreign aid projects	

- **Items that will move to other social department from Guangdong Province Government (the other social department haven't shown in the list)**

Original Organs	Executive	Moved Items
Economic and Information Commission		Identification of provincial enterprise technology centers
		Identification of clean production enterprises

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Science and Technology Agency	Identification of national hightechnology enterprises
Administration for Industry and Commerce	Identification of provincial famous trademark

➤ **Items delegated to a lower level of department from Guangdong Provincial Department**

Original Executive Organs	Items	Current Executive Organs
Public Security Department	inspection and approval of foreignersport visa for short stays in China	Port Visa Office of Provincial Public Security Department
	inspection and approval of applications for an extension and adjustment by foreigners after entering China	Municipal government
Department of Finance	inspection and approval of recovering investment by foreigners invested in cooperative enterprises that are registered incity/county Administrations for Industry and Commerce	Municipal government
Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau	inspection and issuance of small-size or medium-size project builders' licenses	Municipal government

➤ **Items whose approval rights will be mandated to other organs**

Original Executive Organs	Items	Current Executive Organs
Education Department	Qualifications of teachers from ordinary higher technological	ordinary higher technological academies and adult higher

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No: 46 Tepebaşı 34420
İstanbul – Turkey
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F +90 (212) 249 13 50
E tusiad@tusiad.org

Ankara

İran Caddesi, No: 39/4
Gaziosmanpaşa 06700
Ankara – Turkey
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F +90 (312) 428 86 76
E ankoffice@tusiad.org

Brussels

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Brussels – Belgium
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F +32 (2) 736 3993
E bxloffice@tusiad.org

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F +1 (202) 776 77 71
E usoffice@tusiad.us

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Berlin 10179 Germany
T +49 (30) 288 786 300
F +49(30) 288 786 399
E berlinoffice@tusiad.org

Paris

33, Rue de Galilée 75116
Paris – France
T +33 (1) 44 43 55 35
F +33 (1) 44 43 55 46
E parisoffice@tusiad.org

Beijing

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P. R. China
T +86 (10) 6462 2066
F +86 (10) 6462 2067
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	academies and adult higher schools	schools with qualified conditions
Justice Department	Registration of changing judicial expertise institutions	Municipal government
	Registration of change of judicial authenticators practice	Municipal government
People's Air Defence Office	inspection and approval of transfer, loss and scrap of civil air defence assets below 5 million RMB	Municipal government
	inspection and approval of building small-size civil air defence projects	Municipal government