وزارة التجـــــــارة والصناعـــــــة
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
State of Qatar • دولـــة قطـــر

www.moci.gov.qa

Awareness guide on competition protection and prohibition of monopolistic practices



What are the procedures?

1. Submit the request electronically via the Digital Platform.
2. The competent authority receives the request.
3. The request is presented to the Competition Protection Committee for a decision.
4. The final decision is issued in accordance with the applicable regulations.
5. The applicant is notified of the decision.
6. The complaint form includes required content fields.

The electronic complaint form includes the following:

- The company being reported
- Your interest in submitting the complaint
- Complainant's details
- Attachment uploads

Do the competition authorities at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry charge fees for complaints or related services?

No, the competition authorities at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry do not charge any fees for reviewing complaints, assessing economic concentration requests, or evaluating exemption requests related to tenders, agreements, and contracts that may restrict competition.

ماهي الإجراءات؟

1. تقديم الطلب إلكترونياً عبر المنصة الرقمية.
2. استلام الطلب من قبل الجهة المختصة.
3. عرض الطلب على لجنة حماية المنافسة لاتخاذ القرار.
4. إصدار القرار النهائي وفقاً للتشريعات المنظمة.
5. إبلاغ مقدم الطلب بالقرار.
6. محتويات نموذج البلاغ.

يتضمن نموذج البلاغ الإلكتروني ما يلي:

- الشركة المراد التبليغ عنها
- مصلحتك في تقديم البلاغ
- بيانات المبلغ
- إضافة مرفقات

هل تستوفي الجهات المختصة بحماية المنافسة بوزارة التجارة والصناعة رُسوماً عن البلاغات أو الخدمات المقدمة؟

لا تستوفي الجهات المختصة بحماية المنافسة بوزارة التجارة والصناعة أي رسم لفحص البلاغات أو دراسة طلبات التركز الاقتصادي أو طلبات استثناء العطاءات والاتفاقات والعقود المقيدة للمنافسة المقدمة إليها.

Fifth Part

The Procedure of File a Complaint

Economic Concentration Request – Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Who is entitled to file a complaint?

According to the provisions of Law No. (19) of 2006 on the Protection of Competition and Prevention of Monopolistic Practices and its Executive Regulations, any person may report to the Competition Protection authorities at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry any practices that violate competition rules.

Moreover, the concerned authorities may, on their own initiative and without the need for a formal complaint, take the necessary actions in cases involving agreements, contracts, or practices that harm or unlawfully restrict competition. This means that any conduct potentially in conflict with the Competition Law may be investigated even if no complaint is filed, to verify whether a legal violation has occurred.

The concept of self-commitment serves as an effective and deterrent mechanism against anti-competitive practices, enabling the Competition Protection authorities at the Ministry to take action even in cases where affected parties, for any reason, refrain from submitting formal complaints. The law entrusts these authorities with a critical role in safeguarding the economic system and ensuring the proper functioning of market mechanisms and fair competition.

How to Report a Violation of the Law

Violations of the Competition Protection and Anti-Monopoly Practices Law can be reported electronically by visiting the Ministry of Commerce and Industry›s website. Navigate to the e-Services section and select the Digital Platform Services, or scan the QR code provided. Complete the electronic complaint form related to the individual or group suspected of engaging in practices that violate the law, ensuring all required information is accurately filled out.

Scan the QR code to request the service

Fourth Part

Penalties

Article (12) of law No. (19) of 2006 on the Protection of Competition and the Prevention of Monopolistic Practices states, “The Committee may revoke any decisions it has issued under Article (10) of this Act if it sees that the information it received from the persons concerned was untrue or fraudulent.”

What does the Law Prescribe of Penalties Against Those in Violation of its Provisions?

The law stipulated the penalties for violating its provisions as follows:

Whoever violates the provisions of this law shall be punished with a fine of no less than one hundred thousand Riyals and not exceeding five million Qatari Riyals.

In all cases, the court shall confiscate the profits earned from the offending activity and other profits he may have obtained of unfair competition (Article 17).

The officer in charge of actual management of an offending legal person shall be punished with the same penalities for the acts committed in violation of the provisions of this law, if it is proved that he was aware of the crime occurrence.

The legal person shall be jointly liable for paying financial penalities and compensation in the offences had been committed by one of its employees, on his behalf or in his favor.

Economic Concentration Request – Ministry of Commerce and Industry

The Competition Protection Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry facilitates the process for companies wishing to undergo an economic concentration (merger or acquisition), in accordance with Article (10) of the Law on the Protection of Competition and Prevention of Monopolistic Practices.
Any party intending to carry out an economic concentration must obtain prior approval from the relevant competition authority at the Ministry.

Procedures

1. Fill in the electronic notification form through the approved digital platform.
2. Attach all required documents to complete the request.
3. The Mergers and Exemptions Review Section will receive and review the submission.
4. The request will be evaluated in accordance with competition protection regulations.
5. The application will be presented to the Competition Protection Committee for a final decision.
6. A decision will be issued within a maximum of 90 days from the date all requirements are fulfilled.
7. The applicant will be officially notified of the outcome.

Note: The 90-day processing period begins once all submission requirements are completed via the digital platform.

Service Requirements

- Power of Attorney: If the applicant is a legal representative, a certified and Arabic-translated PoA must be provided.
- Definition of the relevant market.
- Sales figures for the last three years (financial statements).
- Key goods/services handled by the applicant.
- Market entry conditions and influencing factors.
- Production capacity of the involved parties.
- Available substitute goods.
- Details of any ownership, asset, or rights acquisition, share purchases, mergers, or managerial consolidations in the past five years related to the concerned entity.
- Existing agreements (e.g., distribution, supply, joint production).
- Information about any foreign partner involved.

Scan the QR code to request the service

Second: Horizontal Concentration

Where concentration is between the companies that produce the same good. Example: The merger of two automobile production companies. This typically leads to a high level of concentration and can create market power and market dominance. This type represents a threat to competition as all countries have enacted laws and established authorities to study the inconsistency of horizontal concentration processes with the economic public policy due to its negative impact on the principle of freedom of competition. This is because the decrease in the number of companies operating in a particular field due to merger facilitates complicity among these companies and enables them to monopolise production in the field of their activity thus leading to price hikes.

Third: Conglomerate concentration

It is also called diversified or grouping concentration. It happens between companies that carry out different activities, i.e. every company performs activities unrelated to the activity of the other company. Among the most prominent objectives of this type of concentration is to distribute risks and search for financial liquidity for the purpose of the geographical extension of the market and support of the negotiating position through expanding the product portfolio when dealing with customers and suppliers.

According to Law No. 19 of 2006 on the Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices, any person who wishes to acquire assets or property rights or usufructs or purchase shares or to establish unions or mergers or the administration of two legal persons or more in a way that leads to their control or domination in the market, shall notify the competent authorities concerned with competition protection at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in writing.

The law guarantees the speedy attention to these requests within a period not exceeding ninety days from the date of receipt of notification by the competent authorities at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and after completing all the required documents. If that period elapses without a decision on it, this is considered an implicit approval of the application.

Is it required of the Companies Planning to do the Economic Concentration Process to Acquire an Approval in Advance?

Mergers or acquisitions, purchases of shares and the establishment of unions and joint ventures can be considered forms of the Economic Concentration processes, one of the aspects of alliances and convergence between economic entities in order to reach common goals mainly aimed at staying in the market and achieving financial profits.

The companies wishing to undertake an Economic Concentration process must obtain prior approval from the competent authorities in charge with competition protection at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry before completing the process.

Means of Achieving Economic Concentration

1. **Merger:** Merger happens in two ways: through amalgamation and possession.

   - **Merger by possession:** This kind of merger takes place when a company joins another company. This means, merging into another existing company. This results in the expiry of the merged company and the disappearance of its personality permanently. The merging company remains with a valid legal personality. This type of merger is the most common.

   - **Merger by amalgamation:** This merger renders all companies entering into it invalid, with the disappearance of the personality of each of them. From the net receivables of these companies, a new company will be created that was not present.

2. **Acquisition:** There are two types of acquisition: Friendly acquisition and non-friendly acquisition.

   - **Friendly acquisition (Friendly Merger):** It happens when there is matching of will and understanding between the boards of directors of the companies concerned and it aims to achieve a common interest.

   - **Unfriendly acquisition (Hostile Merger / Acquisition):** This type occurs against the desire of the board of directors of the target company for merger and takes place when a strong and successful company in the market seizes or controls a weak or underperforming company.

Types of Economic Concentration

With regard to the types of Economic Concentration, and in view of the purposes and objectives of the companies involved therein, there are three types: Vertical concentration, horizontal concentration, and conglomerate concentration.

First: Vertical concentration

It means, concentration between companies that produce commodities or products that complement each other, meaning companies operating in the various stages of production.

For example: Integration of an auto factory with an auto spare parts factory, or also the petroleum industry that goes through different stages such as study, exploration, production, refining and marketing, and each stage is carried out by different companies that can merge into one new company that performs the whole production process in order to benefit from cost discounts. This type of concentration includes non-competing but integrated activities so that it does not have an effect on the magnitude of concentration because the commodities are different. The process of vertical concentration reduces the number of competitors within the market and also brings the possibility of closing it, especially if the barriers of entry are high. Also, vertical mergers, in general, do not constitute significant issues from the perspective of fair competition as companies operate in different reference markets. However, there must be a check-up for any possible negative impact of this concentration on the competition situation in the market through price-discriminatory practices or market foreclosure as any exclusive deal among the merged institutions will result in the market closure at the level of both background and foreground market, when competitors in these markets do not find a substitute for supplying the product or service concerned. This situation happens when one of the merged institutions is in the position of a market monopoly It becomes more tense when there are important barriers for entry.

What is Economic Concentration?

It is any act that results in the transfer in a whole or part of ownership or rights of use of a property, shares, or obligations from one company to another company through merger, acquisition, or any other form.

Merger:



Acquisition:



Some of the Most Important Advantages of Economic Concentration

- Improvement of management methods and the use of behavior advanced methods.
- Achievement of technical and technological advantages through the use of advanced production methods to develop products and achieve production quality.
- Expansion of product distribution chains (market conquest) and increase the efficiency of logistical channels.
- Providing huge capital and liquidity that rids a company the need to resort to borrowing.
- Ability to face competition and reduce advertising costs.
- Taking advantage of the merits of the economy of scale and reducing production costs.
- Finding solutions to save companies that are bankrupt or experiencing economic difficulties

The Most Important Factors Driving Companies for Economic Concentration

Companies resort to the policy of Economic Concentration for a variety of reasons, depending on the circumstances they go through.

- **Integration:** Integration happens vertically and horizontally. Horizontal integration is realised between two or more companies that carry out the same activity or production.

- **Facing competition:** Companies may resort to concentration in order to face competition or prefer to remain and be able to stand up to encounter dominant or larger firms.

- **Bailing out troubled companies:** Economic Concentration is used as one of the solutions for staggering, underperforming companies. A company that suffers from economic crises and debt tends to merge with another company with better economic and administrative capabilities, to get rid of the difficult conditions and troubles it goes through.

- **Protection of the national economy:** Companies resort to Economic Concentration to achieve a national public interest and to protect one of the troubled sectors of the national economy.

- **Monopoly and the Desire to Dominate:** It is an illegal driver of Economic Concentration, because it causes harm to others, which justifies the control that competition protection authorities exercise over this type of legal behaviour.

Third Part

Economic Concentration

3. Falsely creating a sudden abundance of goods and services so that they are sold at a price below the market price with the aim of removing competitors or harming them.

Example
A company supplying and selling fruit and vegetables, in a dominant position, floods the market with large quantities of banana, leading to a surplus of banana supplies. This will cause a drop in prices, which some of the competitors may not be able to cope with, thus causing them huge losses and consequently, they can be kicked out of the market.



4. Selling a product for less than its marginal cost with the aim of harming competitors, causing losses to them to remove them the market.

Example
A company supplying rice, in a dominant position, sells rice at lesser than its actual cost, leading to exclusion of competitors from the market as a result of not being able to cope with price drops.



5. Unjustifiably refraining from entering into sales transactions and buying a product with anyone or halt dealing with them completely.

Example
A commodity supply company, in a dominant position, deliberately ends its relationship with an other company with which it has been dealing for a relatively long time, without an objective reason or justification.



6. Obliging a supplier or a company not to deal with competitors.

Example
A supermarket, in a dominant position, obliges a supplier to deal with it exclusively instead of dealing with its competitors in the market



Is Dominant Position a violation of law?

Dominant Position is not considered to be in violation of the law, as companies are entitled to enjoy that status in the market. However, they do not have the right to misuse it.

Law no. 19 of 2006 on the Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic practices and its executive regulation, has determined forms and types of these prohibited practices.

Where Article no. 4 stipulates that persons having control or dominance are prohibited to misuse it by performing illegal practices, especially the following:

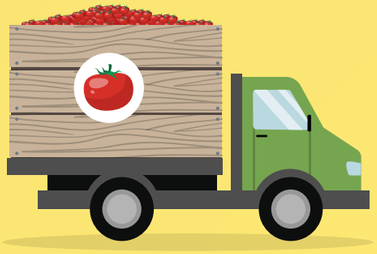
1. Abstaining from dealing in products by sale or purchase, limiting or hindering such dealing in a manner that leads to imposing unreal prices.
2. Increasing or decreasing available quantities of the product leads to having a shortage or unreal abundance therein.
3. Abstaining - without a legal justification- from entering into transactions for the sale or purchase of any product with any person or selling the products subject of the transaction with a price that is less than actual cost or ceasing to deal with him completely, in a manner which leads to limiting his freedom to get in or out of the market at any time.
4. Imposing an obligation of not manufacturing, producing or distributing a product for a limited period(s).
5. Imposing an obligation of distributing or selling only a specified commodity or service according to geographical areas, distribution centers, customers, seasons or periods, and among persons having vertical relationships.
6. Making any conclusion of a contract or agreement - for sale or purchase of a product- conditional on accepting obligations and products that are in nature or under the commercial use not related to the subject matter of the original transaction or agreement.
7. Waisting equal opportunities among competitors by having a preference for particular competitors over others in the conditions of sale or purchase transactions without any legal justification.
8. Refraining from supplying a product wich is in short supply, whenever the supply of the same is economically possible.
9. Obligatiing a supplier not to deal with any competitor.
10. Selling products at a price less than their marginal cost or average variable cost.
11. Obligating any party, who is dealing with the persons enjoying control or dominance, not to allow any competitor thereof to use any required facilities or services notwithstanding that they are economically available.

What is Dominant Position?

The ability of a person or a group of persons operating together to control the product market and make an effective impact on prices or quantity of goods offered at such prices where their competitors are unable to limit that practice.

Example:

the ability of a supplier of a certain food commodity who is in a Dominant Position in the very commodity to control the supply of the same commodity



It enables him to influence prices in his own favour in the market without the other suppliers having the ability to do anything about it.

What are the Most Prominent Criteria for Determining a Dominant Position?

1. The person's share in the relevant market compared with the rest of the competitors.
2. The effect of a person's behaviour on the rest of the competitors. The market concerned in the previous period is like the market strength and price policy has an effect on the price or the size of the supplied product.
3. The number of competitors and their relative influence on the functioning of the market.
4. The ability of competitors to Access to necessary materials for production.

Example
An agency selling a certain trademark of vehicles owns the largest share of this trademark in the market.



Example
An electronic company selling a well-known brand of mobile phones can affect the amount of supply and current prices as well as influencing the behaviour of competitor companies, given its technological supremacy and ability to invent and own patent as well as being well-known to the consumers.



Example
Scarcity of the companies socialising in medical waste disposal as per required standards, which will contribute in the long run to the dominance of the company that owns the merits of competitiveness in the market.



Example
A company dealing in the field of detergents, with a dominant position thanks to its huge capabilities that allow it to dominate the largest amount of materials that are part of the production of certain detergents needed in the market. Such a dominant position leads to an increase in production capacity and contributes to a side-lining competitor, thus restricting their production capacity and access to primary materials. This will restrict their production capacity and competitiveness.



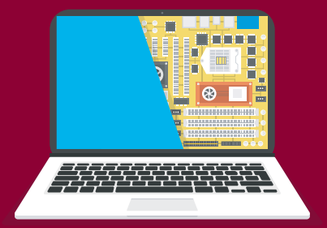
The Most Known Forms of Misuse of Dominant Market Position

1. Distinction between companies, where dominant persons for example are prohibited to sell the same commodity or provide the same service at different prices for similar companies of the same situation.
2. Imposing unfair trade terms through conditional sales. For example, the dominant company connects the sale of a good or provides a specific service with a purchase of another good or service.

Example
A dominant supermarket gives discounts or incentives to certain suppliers and excludes others.



Example
A company dealing in computers, with a dominant position, makes it conditional that a client provides a service or replaces parts by buying original parts from it.



Second Part

The Practices Prohibited by the Law on the Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices

Second Practice:

Misuse of Dominant Market Position

What are the Most Prominent Forms of Prohibited Agreements?

Law No. 19 of 2006 on the Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices did not limit the number of cases that are harmful of competition. However, it only touched on the most important situations, including but not limited to:

- Manipulation of the prices of the products displayed in the market by raising, reducing or fixing prices in a way or another.

  Example (1): The agreement of two or more companies to determine the price of a particular product, in which case the market mechanisms are rendered useless (rules of supply and demand). Such practice would lead to setting a price that does not reflect the reality of the market and undermines consumer interests and market efficiency.

  Example (2): A company monopolizes a commodity, leading to an artificial increase in its price.

  Example (3): A company lowering its price below the market price in order to exclude competitors or increase its market share.

- Preventing or obstructing any person from exercising his/her economic or commercial activity in the market.

  For Example: The suppliers of a particular good forming a joint stock company, a joint branch, or centralized procurement, the purpose of which is to coordinate, consult and exchange information on prices, bids and other information related to the commodity supply activity in order to prevent the entry of new competitors or to exclude any of them.

- Sharing product markets or allocating them on the basis of geographical regions, distribution centers, or quality of customers, or on a seasonal basis, time periods or on the basis of commodities.

  Example: Service companies establish an agreement with each other to provide their services to consumers on a geographical basis (company «A» provides services in Area No. (1), while company «B» provides its services in area number (2).

- Coordination or agreement between competitors on bidding or withholding bids in tenders, practices, bids and supply bids.

  For Example: Agreement between service companies to fix the prices of the service they provide and to impose unjustified high prices in order to achieve monopoly of profits without entering into price competition that may cause harm to them.

- Publishing incorrect information about products or their prices, deliberately.

  For Example: An intentional agreement between two companies to publish false statements about a competing product causing drops in its sales as a result of misleading the consumer and consequently, driving the competitor out of the market.

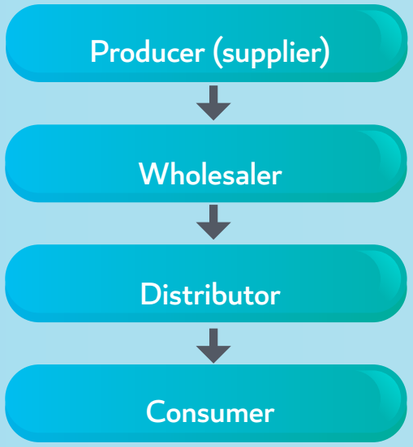
Vertical agreements are those between companies that are active in different levels of supply, production and distribution chains. For example, it happens between manufacturers of production inputs and manufacturers of goods that contain such inputs, or between producers and wholesalers, or between producers, wholesalers and retailers. These can take the following forms:

Determining the resale price

Exclusive deals

Conditional sale

No competition



Vertical agreement

Examples of practices:









What is the Nature of the Competition Harmful Agreements?

Agreements can be written, oral, express or implicit.

Written



Oral



What are the Competition Harmful Agreements?

Agreement from a competition perspective means that competing companies coordinate their behaviour in different ways with the aim of violating the rules of competition in the market and avoiding the intensity of competition.

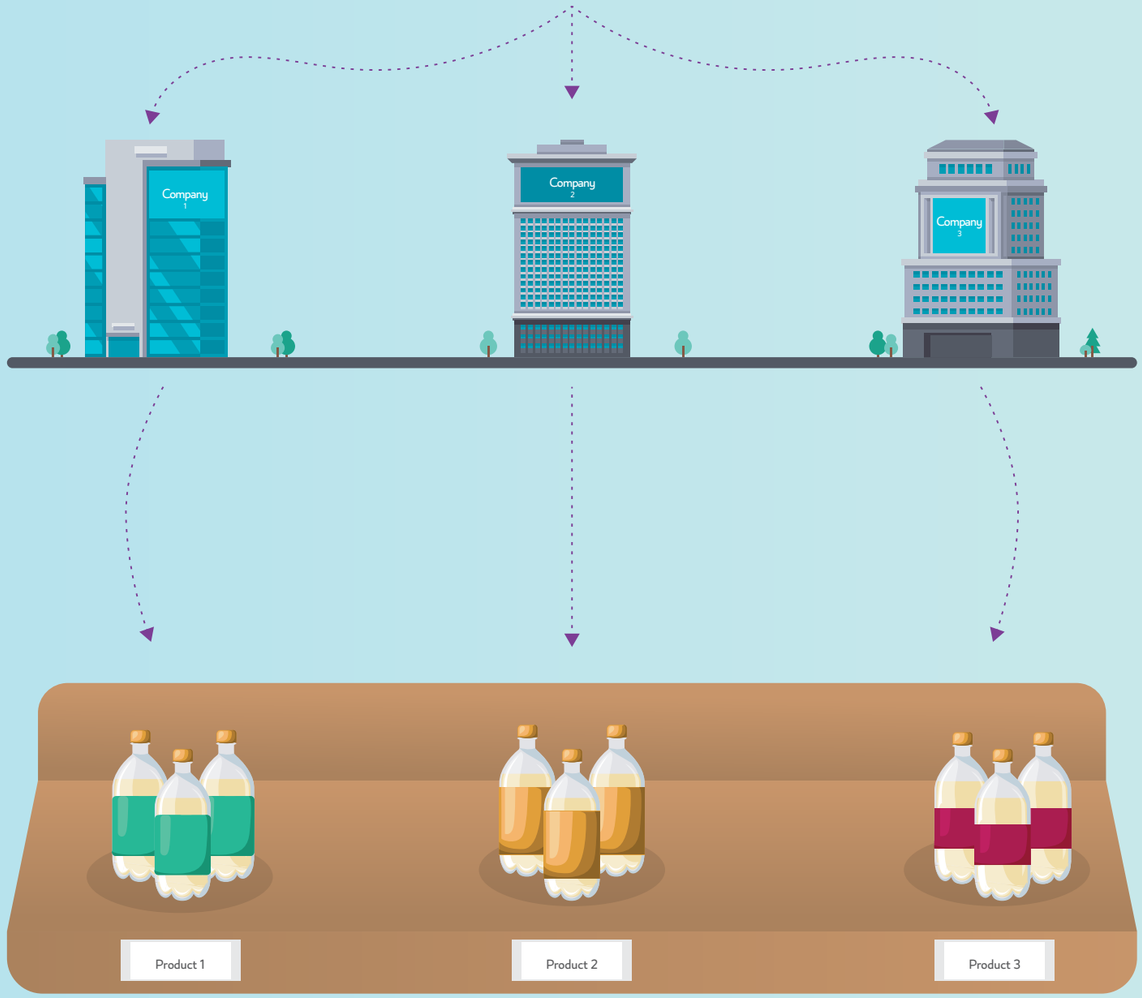
Some Forms of Competition Harmful Agreements

The competition harmful agreements can be vertical or horizontal.

Horizontal agreements: Which are done between competing companies operating in the same field

Example

A company exercising the same activity



The concerned companies agree to spend on:

- Prices: either by increasing, decreasing or fixing.
- Reducing production and sharing markets.
- Closing down markets through putting restrictions on possible competitors access.

How Secure is the Information Kept by Law Enforcement Agencies?

All employees of the Competition Protection Department, members of the Committee for the Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices, and employees delegated to work with the Secretariat of the Committee, shall maintain the confidentiality of the information and the records obtained from the companies in question.

Besides, none of the members of the Committee may participate in the deliberation of any matter or issue in which he/she has an interest or relationship or in which he/she has a relationship or kinship with one of its parties. Furthermore, a company may not withhold any information on the pretext of confidentiality or any other reason.

Second Part

The Practices Prohibited by the Law on the Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices

First Practice:

Competition Harmful Agreements

How to Request for Exclusion of Bids, Agreements and unrestricted contracts from Competition?

A request to exclude tenders, agreements and contracts restricting competition from the scope of restriction shall be submitted in writing to the Minister of Commerce and Industry, prior to submitting the bid or concluding the agreement or contract.

The application must include the following:

- A full explanation of the causes.
- A statement of the public interest that it achieves or the benefits that it brings to the consumer.
- The documents supporting the anticipated benefit.

Who is in Charge of Implementing the Provisions of the Competition Protection Law?

The State of Qatar adopts the regulation that is based on the duality of the agencies responsible for implementing the competition policy, as practiced in many countries.

In parallel with the role assigned to the Committee for the Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices, the Competition Protection Department of the Consumer Affairs Sector in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry plays a pivotal role in the implementation of State policy in this area.

1. **Competition Protection Department:** Emiri Decision No. 18 of 2019 assigned the Competition Protection Department in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, with the following powers:

- Implement laws and regulations to protect competition and prohibit monopolistic practices.
- Provide data and information about the economic and commercial activity
- Dissemination of the competition advocacy in coordination with the entities concerned in other countries on issues pertaining to the protection of competition and prohibition of monopolistic practices.
- Examining the notifications pertaining to the transfer of property rights, acquire assets, establishing unions and mergers and assessment of their impact on competition as well as suggesting procedures pertaining thereto.
- Conduct research and investigation on anticompetive practices, making sure they exist and present solutions thereto.
- Prepare studies on the functioning of the country's markets and economic sectors, and provide proposals to enhance competition and limit monopolistic practices, in coordination with the concerned authorities.

2. **Committee for the Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices:** The Committee undertakes several tasks and jurisdictions, most notably:

- Receiving and examining reports relating to violations of law No. 19 of 2006 and checking the seriousness thereof and take appropriate measures.
- Preparing integral information and data base of the economic avtivity and updating and developing it in a manner that serves the tasks of the committee in all fields relating to the protection of competition and prohibition of monopolistic practices and conducting necessary studies and researches.
- Coordinating with peer bodies in other countries with regard to matters of common interest.
- Stating an opinion concerning draft laws and regulations relating to competition and prohibition of monopolistic practices.
- Preparing an annual report, of the Committee's activities, future plans and suggestions, to be presented to the Minister and a copy therof is to be submitted to the Cabinet.
- Issuing a periodical circular including decisions, recommandations, procedures and arrangements of the Committee in addition to other matters relating thereto.

Why pay attention to the Competition Protection Law?

The Competition Protection law has advantages that make it necessary to influence the economic situation of each country. These advantages have been proven in all the countries that have applied the law seriously and created effective systems to enforce its provisions.

Understanding the purposes of competition policy and law requires of the various stakeholders to be aware of its benefits to them and to the economy as a whole, as it is not an end in itself as much as it is a way to encourage and incentive creativity, maximise utilisation of resources, leading to the diversification of supply and improvement of quality at best prices.

What is the Scope of Application of the Law on the Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices?

The competition regulation in the State of Qatar is subject to the provisions of Law No. 19 of 2006 on the Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices and its executive regulation issued on 92008/3/.

The provisions of the law apply to all economic entities; whatever their form (factories, companies, associations, in the event of performing a profitable economic activity) should these entities commit any practices or actions that undermine the good functioning of the local market and its balance.

The term “persons” in the sense of the Competition Law cannot be limited to natural or legal persons, but extends to any entity that is engaged in economic activity. On the other hand, the law does not apply to sovereign actions, whatever their form or nature, as well as the institutions subject to the State supervision and instruction.

Is the Law on Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices applicable to foreign companies that do not have offices in the State of Qatar?

The law applies to all the violations that affect the local market, including those committed by the people who are base d out side the State, whenever they commit the actions that undermin e competition in the domestic market.

For example, the companies located outside the country presented bids in the framework of participating in a tender. The tender was awarded to one of them and when implementation was initiated it was found out that there was a suspicion of collusion between the bidding companies, namely, having agreed on dividing the market or not to compete with one another in certain geographical regions. In this case, the agreement shall be subject to the supervision of the competition protection authorities at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Does the Law Provide for Exceptions and Exemptions?

Law No. 19 of 2006 on the Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices identified three exceptions:

1. Some contracts and agreements that may not be compatible with the provisions of the law and the requirements of competition in the event that they have a positive impact on the economy and the consumer,

2. Exemption from prescribed penalties (or mitigating thereof) for every person involved in a violation of the law and showed cooperation with law enforcement authorities in the detection of the anticompetitive practices undermining fair competition and its parties, and



3. Exempt of an Economic Concentration process from being subject to the provisions of Article 10 of the law, for possible incompatibility with the competition requirements and rules if such a process has a positive impact on the consumer or the economy.

Note: Exception as per (1) hereinabove shall only be granted if stakeholders provide sufficient justifications, support, and guarantees that establish evidence of the positive impact of the practices subject to the requested exception on the consumer and the economy, provided that the final decision remains with the minister who has the absolute authority to grant approval or not.

First Part

The Competition Protection Law

What is the purpose of this Guide?

The aim of this Guide is to achieve a better understanding of Law No. 19 of 2006 on Protection of Competition and Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices, and its executive regulation. Looking at what it includes of explanations of the basic concepts of competition, instructions on the scope of application of the law and the implications resulting therefrom and the procedures to be followed, the Guide can be viewed as a set of tools that show the various stakeholders, especially the business sector, how to ensure the integrity of their position, which reinforces the need for voluntary compliance with the legislation in force. Hence, some of the explanations and conclusions provided for herein are just examples. Meaning, this Guide is not considered an interpretation of the law and has no legal effect.

Which are the target groups of this Guide?

This Guide is intended for employees of the various government agencies in the country. Among the categories also targeted in this Guide are decision-makers, judges and members of the public prosecution, attorneys, legal advisers in companies, the business sector in general, faculties of law and economics and researchers, each according to their area of interest.

What is the intent of fair competition?

Competition, in general, is about producers or dealers rivaling each other to produce or sell a product in order to achieve the highest profits and attract the largest number of customers.

What is the intent of Anticompetitive Practices?

Anticompetitive Practices of unfair Competition are those actions or behaviours by natural, legal persons or any other legal entity, of whatever form, practicing economic activity that undermines or is a constraint to freedom of competition, and its effect is detrimental to the general balance of markets.

There is always confusion between competition and competitiveness.

What is the difference between them?

Competitiveness differs from competition as already defined. Competitiveness means the ability of an economic institution to offer and sell a good or provide a service in a more efficient and effective way than other competitors, marred with high quality and competitive prices, which requires the creation of a competitive advantage that allows the company or institution to sustain its presence in the market, enhance its position and increase its share therein. Competition is ultimately the major driver of accelerating the competitiveness of an establishment or a company.

Preamble

Ministry of Commerce and Industry: Vision, mission, and values

وزارة التجـــــــارة والصناعـــــــة
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
State of Qatar • دولـــة قطـــر

Vision

A diversified economy and a private self-sufficient sector within a vigilant competitive business environment that caters for consumer rights and duties and obligations of traders towards them.

Mission

Leading sustainable economic growth in partnership with the private sector within a fair and stimulating business environment through policymaking, encouragement of miscellaneous investments, regulation, market monitoring and consumer protection.

Value

Excellent services
Working in partnerships
Entrepreneurial Thinking
Innovation
Transparency

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AWARENESS GUIDE ON COMPETITION PROTECTION AND PROHIBITION OF MONOPOLISTIC PRACTICES

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