



MEMORANDUM TO CLIENTS AND FRIENDS

March 31, 2005

Mandatory Registration of Businesses in Puerto Rico

Effective September 15, 2004, all natural and juridical persons doing business in Puerto Rico, regardless of their annual sales volume, are required to register with the Registry of Entrepreneurs and Enterprises (the "Registry") by July 15th of each year. Act 304 of 2004 ("Act 304") amended certain statutory provisions that had made such registration voluntary for some businesses and mandatory for others. A business that is organized between January 1st and July 15th of any given year is not required to register until the subsequent year. There is currently no registration fee.

The Registry is administered by the Puerto Rico Trade and Export Company and is intended to serve as a data base of statistical information about businesses and their economic activities in Puerto Rico. All business information provided to the Registry is strictly confidential, except for (1) the company's name, (2) the name of its owner or president, (3) the name and title of a contact person, (4) the company's physical, mailing and electronic addresses, (5) its telephone and fax numbers, (6) the type of establishment where the company is located, (7) the year of its organization or commencement of operations in Puerto Rico, (8) the years under its current management, (9) its classification under the North American Industry Classification System, and (10) its business description.

If you have any questions or comments, or wish additional information regarding this matter, please contact Antonio Escudero Viera at 787-250-5625 (aev@mcvpr.com), Iván G. Marrero at 787-250-2606 (igm@mcvpr.com), or the chairperson of our Corporate Department, Samuel T. Céspedes Jr. at 787-250-2610 (scs@mcvpr.com)

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