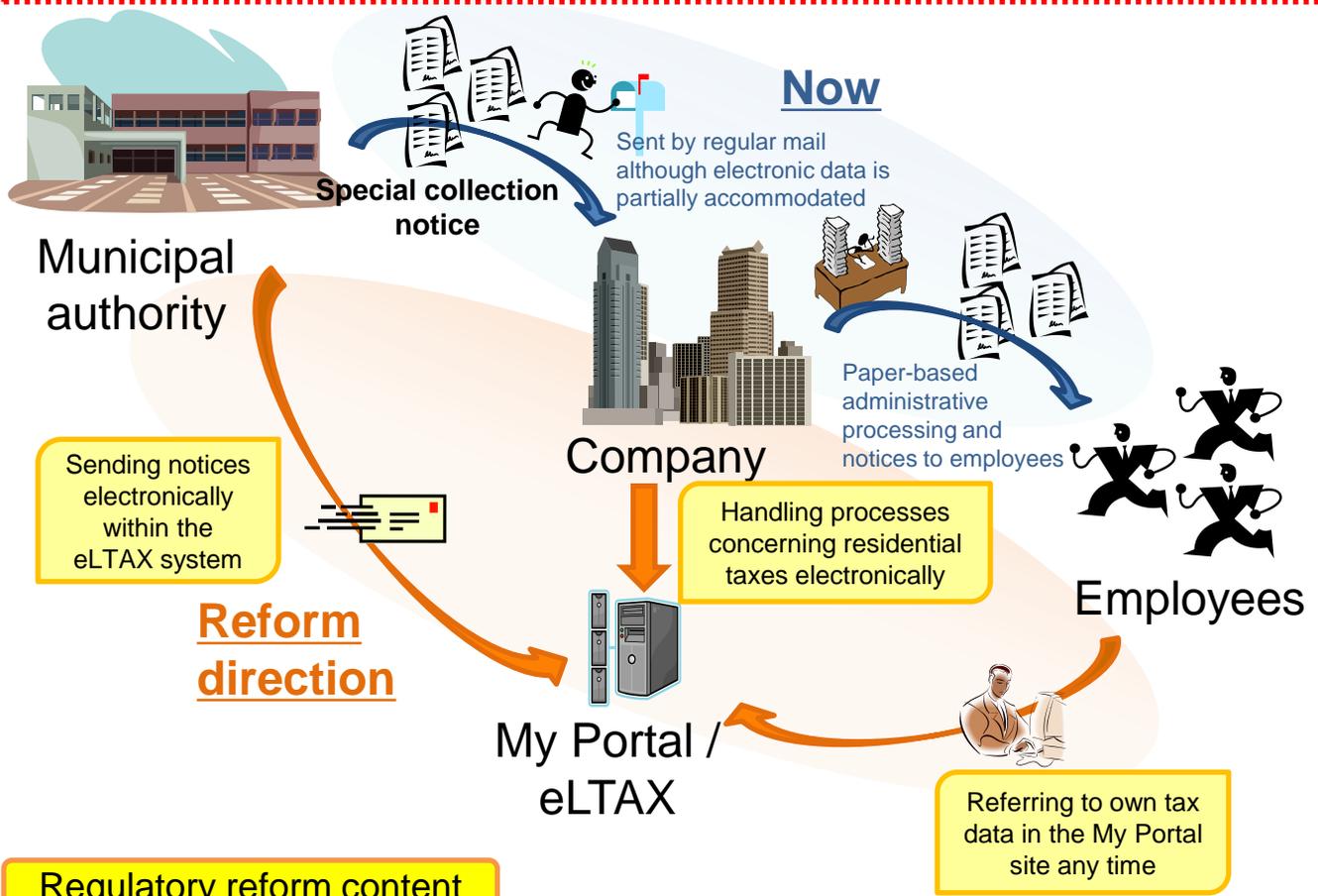


Promoting the Use of Electronic Means at Public Organizations for Sending Notices

Current status

- Local governments send collection and refund notices on levies by regular mail in principle.
- The lack of electronic signature function in the eLTAX system means electronically sent special collection notice on resident taxes is not legally valid.
- There is no online mechanism for taxpayers to view their tax information, such as the amount of taxes paid.



Regulatory reform content

Adding electronic signature to eLTAX data and building a function to view the amount of resident taxes within the My Portal site so as to encourage local governments to use electronic means to send notices

Anticipated effect

- Streamlining companies' administrative work concerning local taxes
- Heightening public convenience for checking the amount of resident taxes
- Reducing government costs in sending and managing tax notices
- Going paperless for environmental conservation

Centralizing Transaction Queries to Financial Institutions

Current status

- The National Tax Agency, tax offices, local governments, welfare service offices and police can file transaction queries with financial institutions as part of various forms of investigations. For the past decades, such queries have been handled with hardcopy documents by regular mail.
- Some financial institutions handle over a million queries per year. This is imposing serious workload due to the lack of uniform protocols in the terminology and formats used in such queries, lack of considerations toward having to use regular mail to send responses, and refusal to accept electronic media such as CD-ROM.

Now

NTA, tax offices, local governments, welfare service offices, police, etc.



- Non-uniform terminology and formats used in queries
- Hardcopy-based exchange of information



- No considerations toward having to use regular mail to send responses



Reform direction

- Consider the use of online communication



- Uniform terminology and formats in queries



- Improvement on the use of mail in sending responses
- Accepting data on electronic media

Financial institutions

Improved work efficiency



Regulatory reform content

- Adopting the use of uniform terminology and formats for queries in response to the request from financial institutions
- Considering the use of online communication

Anticipated effect

- The reform will streamline financial institutions' operations, cutting their expenses.
- The use of an online system will streamline the work of both government offices and financial institutions.

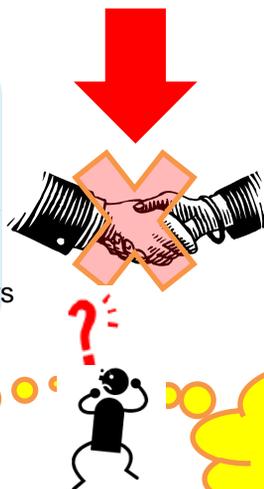
Reviewing the "Guidelines Concerning Distribution Systems and Business Practices," etc.

Current status

- Amidst the diversification of consumer needs, manufacturers and distributors should strengthen their partnerships even further to deliver value-added products to consumers.
- Some point out that the provisions of the Antimonopoly Act concerning vertical restraints (acts of resale price maintenance and non-price restraints) **do not have clear judging criteria on illegality, forcing businesses to act conservatively** and preventing the above-mentioned collaboration.



Antimonopoly Act
Regulating the acts of manufacturers applying restraint on how retailers sell their merchandise and how distributors deal with their suppliers (vertical restraints)



We want to expand partnerships, but it might be illegal to ask them to take a specific sales approach....

There are situations whereby restricting a sales approach and selection of suppliers might benefit consumers.

Manufacturer



Clearly defining the judging criteria on **the illegality of vertical restraints and specific acts that are illegal** in the "Guidelines Concerning Distribution Systems and Business Practices," which sets the implementation standards in regulating the acts of vertical restraints.

Anticipated effect

Promoting the partnership between manufacturers and retailers to set up a competitive environment with greater benefits to consumers.

Review on Regulations Concerning Dance Establishments under the Amusement Business Control Act

Current status

- Establishments that involve customers dancing are classified as Amusement Business and subject to strict regulations including ban on business after midnight and ban on allowing juvenile access. Some say these regulations are hampering the development of healthy dance culture or dance-related industries.
- With Tokyo having been selected to host the 2020 Olympics, the Amusement Business Control Act should be reviewed so as to use dance culture to add fresh appeal to our cities and attract international visitors.

"Establishments that involve customers dancing" are classified as Amusement Business

Class 3 business (nightclubs, etc.)



Customers dancing



Catering

Class 4 business (dance halls, etc.)



Customers dancing



Main restrictions

Requiring a license

Business hours only until midnight in principle

Not in residential areas or near schools

No underage patronage

No see-through structure from the outside

Regulatory reform content

Considering a review on the Amusement Business Control Act, e.g. exempting non-catering establishments from the regulations, revising business hour restrictions, and introducing new provisions to enable effective response to noise and other issues

Anticipated effect

- The reform will allow good businesses to enter the market, contributing to the healthy development of dance-related industries.
- In preparation for the Tokyo Olympics, providing places of late-night amusement will attract international visitors.

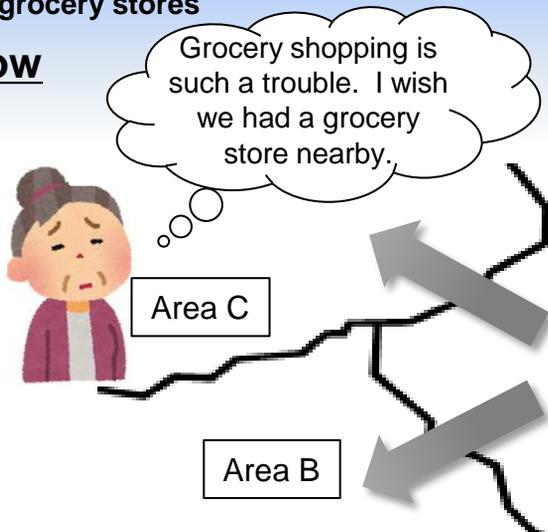
Providing an Environment with Better Grocery Access

Current status

- Operating a mobile grocery store requires a permit from the local prefectural governor.
- There is no unified format when applying for the permit. The guidelines for the application procedure are outdated (e.g. about the size of a water tank).

Communities underserved by grocery stores

Now



- No uniform application forms from area to area
- No standard specifications for food trucks, and no standard criteria for granting the license for selling each type of groceries, etc.

Mobile food trucks by convenience stores and supermarkets



Reform direction

- Considering to adopt uniform application forms
- Reviewing the current guidelines



Regulatory reform content

- Considering the introduction of uniform licensing criteria and application forms with respect to mobile grocery stores, reviewing the current guidelines and revising the application forms

Anticipated effect

- The reform will enable smooth operation of mobile grocery stores, resolving the inconvenience of people who live in underserved areas.