

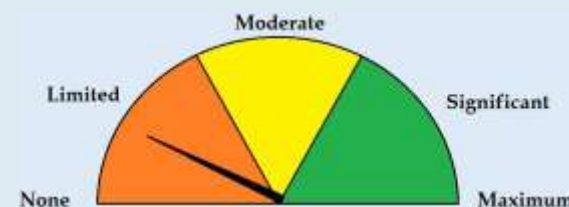
## USCBC China Economic Reform Scorecard—Progress Remains Limited, Pace Remains Slow

February 2016

### Executive Summary

- The US-China Business Council's (USCBC) assessment of China's economic reform efforts remains unchanged [since the September 2015 report – reform policies so far](#) have had limited impact on the top concerns of US companies.
- While “letting the market play a decisive role” remains a fixture of China's economic rhetoric, policy implementation continues to fall short of, or contradict, this goal. Progress has been made in some areas, but the breadth, depth, and pace of reform remain uneven.
- Between mid-August and the end of 2015, Chinese government agencies released several policies that provide positive movement in a few areas.
- State Council commitments to initiate a nationwide negative list for investment management, simplifications to administrative licensing procedures, the lifting of geographical limits for online insurance sales, and efforts to encourage standards harmonization with international methods are examples of reform policies that offer incremental improvement in the business environment.
- However, systemic issues affecting American and other foreign companies in China remain largely untouched, and the positive steps are offset by other more restrictive moves. For example, several policies released during this tracking period called for “secure and controllable” technology in the medical device, insurance, and ICT industries – an approach that will limit many foreign companies from participating in the market, and feed concerns about the use of national security for protectionist purposes. Other recent developments, such as the release of local implementation plans for Made in China 2025 and its localization targets in various sectors, are counter to China's stated goal to create a level playing field for both foreign and domestic firms, and call into question whether incentives laid out in the nationwide plan will be extended to foreign companies.
- While China has pledged to bring its currency in line with International Monetary Fund (IMF) rules as the newest addition to the IMF's basket of reserve currencies, Chinese regulators' response to recent instability in the financial market raises questions on the direction of its capital and financial market reforms. These moves have sparked debate on the extent of Chinese government intervention in the economy, despite repeated calls for the market to play a decisive role. These moves have less impact on the day-to-day business environment than headlines suggest, but do raise questions about the direction, scope, and pace of reform.
- This year marks the beginning of the Chinese leadership's self-identified period for intensifying reform implementation. The completion of pilot programs in free trade zones and the launch of a new Five-Year Plan for the economy are to usher in a more ambitious reform program, targeted for completion by 2020. As the year begins, questions about the commitment to reforms that will reduce market access barriers and address level playing field concerns of foreign companies remain to be answered.

### Impact of Economic Reform on Foreign Companies



*\*No change since September 2015 report*

The “decisive role” of the market in shaping the economy was the key tenet of China’s economic reform program announced three years ago. Most recently, other core characteristics of China’s reform objectives have emerged, including a managed slowdown in economic growth, a shift toward growth based on services and consumption rather than investment, and adopting [supply-side economic policies](#).

The October 2015 Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Fifth Plenum – the fifth full meeting of China’s top party leadership during the 18th National Congress – committed to these reforms at the highest level in order to combat a “new normal” of slower but more sustainable growth. The Fifth Plenum also announced the broad reform principles of the 13th Five-Year Plan, the first developed under the Xi Jinping administration, which will guide China’s economic development from 2016 to 2020.

Other post-plenum documents and statements, such as the outcomes of China’s annual Central Economic Work Conference (CEWC) in December, also committed to reforms aimed at stable growth and economic development. The CEWC advocated for specific supply-side reforms such as reducing overcapacity, protecting business interests and ownership rights, eliminating local protectionism, and lowering taxes and fees.

While China’s top-line reform message of “letting the market play a decisive role” remains rhetorical, signals about reform have been mixed. Though strides have been made in a few specific areas, the breadth, depth, and pace of reform at the national level remain uneven. Inconsistent implementation by central-level ministries and conflicting messages across agencies continue to create uncertainty about when – and to what extent – policy changes will have a tangible impact on the market access and level playing field concerns of USCBC members.

USCBC tracks reform developments to address two major questions:

- What tangible progress have Chinese central government agencies made toward implementing economic reform?
- What impact will reforms have on US companies and their operations in China?

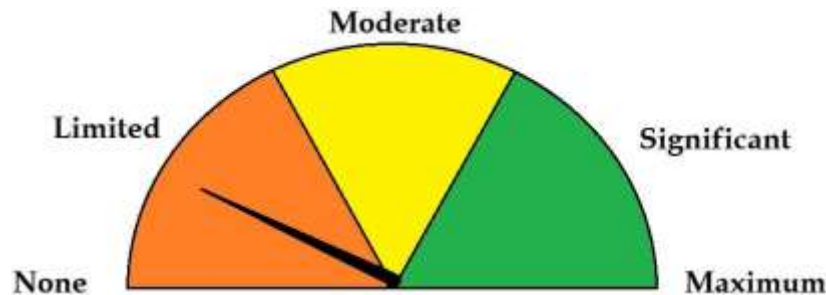
To answer these questions, USCBC has compiled a list of reform-related policies since the start of the Xi administration. The current assessment includes more than 30 months of policies from March 2013 through December 2015. These policies are divided into themes, such as the role of the state and the market, foreign investment, and institutional reforms. Given the role of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (Shanghai FTZ) as the “test lab” for reforms nationwide, this report also analyzes specific Shanghai FTZ-related policy announcements. USCBC will continue to monitor policies developed for the Shanghai FTZ and the three subsequent free trade zones in Fujian, Guangzhou, and Tianjin.

This report assesses the impact of China’s reform efforts on foreign company operations by rating each policy on its direct and immediate impact on foreign company concerns.

- Each policy is assessed as having either a “significant impact” (green), “moderate impact” (yellow), “limited impact” (orange), or “no impact” (red) for foreign company operations in China.
- USCBC’s overall assessment then uses a three-color dashboard, rating China’s reform effort as either limited, moderate, or significant based on its direct impact on foreign companies.

For more information about USCBC’s methodology, see Appendix 1. For USCBC’s complete list of reform-related policies, see Appendix 2.

## USCBC Assessment: Progress Limited, Pace Slow



USCBC's latest assessment of China's economic reform efforts still finds limited progress, with no improvement from our [September 2015 scorecard](#). This latest assessment is based on a review of both new policies and a re-examination of previous policies to gauge their ongoing impact.

Between August and December 2015, Chinese government agencies released a number of reform-related policies that address foreign company concerns, but in limited fashion. Simultaneously, there have been a series of actions and policies that have raised concern about whether market forces are allowed to play an important role in the economy, as well as the continued emphasis on national security policy over economic policy that impacts market reforms and access. These mixed signals from the Chinese government foster uncertainty among foreign business about China's reform efforts, while working against China's own goals for economic growth and stability.

Among the reform-related policies tracked during this period, a notable few made strides toward greater market openings and addressed company concerns. For example, the State Council committed to initiate a nationwide negative list for investment management, with clear goals and concrete timelines for implementation. The system, which will be implemented by 2018, is a positive move toward clarifying China's investment regime and potentially opening up additional sectors for investment. Simplifications to administrative licensing procedures, such as

streamlining the process of applying for a production license and efforts to combine multiple licenses into one, are additional examples of commendable reform policies that should create a more welcoming investment environment for companies.

The Chinese government also made modest strides on financial sector reform, such as lifting geographical limits for online insurance sales, removing requirements on banks' loan-to-deposit ratio, and improving the funding process for public-private partnership (PPP) projects. Other new policies released during this tracking period aimed to standardize development of industries such as electric vehicles and cloud computing, and to harmonize China's standards with international standards at large. Although the implementation of these policies and additional supporting measures will determine their true impact, they represent a positive step in China's overall reform effort.

However, there have been a number of developments that have ultimately offset the positive momentum of reforms. Developments in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector particularly raise concerns about the use of national security for protectionist purposes. Specifically, several policies released during this tracking period called for use of "secure and controllable" or "secure and reliable" technology in the medical device, insurance, and ICT industries – policies that can discourage foreign companies from participating in the market.

Still more recent developments call into question whether China's reform efforts will create a level playing field for both foreign and domestic firms. For example, a "key technology roadmap" released to complement the Made in China 2025 plan includes localization targets for domestic production in industries, including new energy vehicles, integrated circuits, and other areas of advanced manufacturing. The release of local plans, such as the Beijing Implementation Plan for Made in China 2025, encourages innovation and efficiency in China's manufacturing sector with specific development targets for Beijing. It remains unclear whether the preferential policies laid out in the nationwide plan will be extended to foreign companies, or how government-backed support systems will impact fair competition with local Chinese producers.

Continued financial market instability and the responses by Chinese regulators have sparked debate as to the extent of government intervention in the economy and willingness to genuinely allow the market to play a decisive role. For example, regulators discontinued a stock market circuit breaker days after it was implemented due to dramatic stock market fluctuations, leading many to question the predictability and stability of China's policymaking, a key ingredient for a desirable investment environment.

Despite the number of reform policies released by Chinese government agencies since 2013 (more than 450, by USCBC's latest count), many are still not broad enough in scope or specific enough in implementation detail to address foreign company issues. Instead, many of these policies address minor operational issues or are limited to particular sectors. Others do not clearly apply to foreign companies.

Although the impact of reform remains limited, senior government officials have stated that China's overall economic reform plans will be continuously implemented through 2020, with the guidance of the 13th Five-Year Plan. The Shanghai FTZ was launched in 2013 with a three-year timeframe before its reforms would be implemented nationwide, though some of these policies have already been extended to other designated districts in Shanghai, as well as to the free trade zone areas in Tianjin, Fujian, and Guangzhou. Under this timeline, 2016 should be the year for the pilot policies begin to be implemented nationwide.

USCBC encourages Chinese officials to take further steps to issue economic reforms that will benefit the Chinese economy by creating more openings for both foreign and domestic companies. Key steps include establishing concrete policies that liberalize investment, boosting the role of the market in the economy, creating a level playing field for foreign and domestic firms, and promoting further legal reform.

# Appendix 1: Methodology

## Research and Data Collection

For the purposes of this report, USCBC compiled a database of policy developments and announcements related to economic reform. These policies include:

- National-level policies that direct and implement reforms in broad areas;
- National-level policies that promote reforms in specific priority areas or individual sectors;
- National-level policies that apply to operations in all four of China's free-trade zones (Shanghai, Fujian, Guangzhou, and Tianjin); and
- Policies related to the Shanghai FTZ, given the zone's importance in testing and promoting economic reform.

This report does not attempt to include every policy change made since China's March 2013 leadership transition, nor does it include draft policies that have yet to be finalized. Instead, this report focuses on concrete and finalized policies that might have an impact on business operations and that are either explicitly or implicitly tied to economic reform goals. This report also reviews landmark reform documents — such as the Third Plenum Decision — that set clear, high-level direction for wider economic reforms. This report excludes speeches and pronouncements by Chinese leaders about *intended* reforms unless they include specific policy announcements or changes.

USCBC's research focuses on the central government for several reasons. First, reforms are being directly driven in most cases by the central government leadership. Second, it is extremely challenging to track and assess local government policies or to assess their implementation. Thus, this report excludes reform policies by provincial and local governments unless they have national implications, such as those related to the Shanghai FTZ and the free trade zones in Fujian, Guangdong, and Tianjin.

To compile data for this report, USCBC conducted detailed reviews of relevant government webpages on a fixed schedule. USCBC also monitored other government websites, media sources, and a broad mix of information channels to identify concrete policies related to economic reform.

## Assessing Individual Policies

Each policy was first categorized from a list of key reform themes and subthemes. USCBC used the following themes and subthemes to categorize policies:

- Overall Reform
- Foreign Investment
- Administrative Licensing and Approvals
- Institutional Reforms (*Subthemes: Reform-Related Agencies and Groups; Government Restructuring; Other Institutional Reforms*)
- Role of the State and the Market (*Subthemes: SOE Reform; Private Capital*)
- Financial Reforms (*Subthemes: Banking/Interest Rates; Exchange Rate/Foreign Exchange; Insurance; Securities*)
- Pricing Reform and Competition Policy (*Subthemes: Pricing Reforms; Competition Policy*)
- Rule of Law/Legal and Judicial Reform
- Taxation and Budget (*Subthemes: Taxation; Budget/Debt Issues*)
- Corruption, Bribery, and Party Discipline
- Urban/Rural Issues (*Subthemes: Urbanization; Hukou/Household Registration Reform; Land Rights*)
- Other Reforms

Each policy was then assessed based on its impact on foreign company operations in China, with consideration given to the breadth of impact across industries, the geographic scope of the policy, and the level of foreign company concern addressed. For each policy, USCBC considered both the direct impact and the impact of follow-up implementation policies. The impact of each policy is rated on a four-color scale:

- **Significant** (green) The policy has a positive impact on a wide variety of industries with foreign investment in China, and it

has the potential to significantly impact companies' abilities to operate in those sectors nationwide. For these policies, implementation is either completed or seems likely. This category may also include State Council or National People's Congress directives that indicate a significant shift in policy direction across multiple areas of reform.

- **Moderate** (yellow) The policy has: 1) the potential to have a significant positive impact on companies in a wide variety of industries with foreign investment in China, but questions remain regarding implementation speed or ability; 2) a moderate impact on a wide variety of industries with foreign investment in China, with implementation completed or likely; or 3) a significant positive impact for companies in only one sector or in a narrow range of sectors with foreign investment in China, with implementation completed or likely.
- **Limited** (orange) The policy has a limited impact on one sector or on a narrow range of foreign investment sectors, or it has only an indirect impact or benefit for foreign companies investing in China.
- **None** (red) The policy will have no clear direct or indirect impact for foreign companies.

The database includes a handful of broad policy documents that set high-level strategic direction for economic reform but do not contain guidelines for implementing those reforms, such as the November 2013 Decision on Major Issues Concerning Comprehensive and Far-Reaching Reforms. In these cases, the assessment is made based on how relevant the scope of reform is to top foreign company issues. These policies are marked with specific text indicating that the impact of these policies is aspirational.

### Providing an Overall Assessment

Based on an overall review of the importance and impact of individual policies, this report assesses the Chinese government's overall efforts to promote meaningful economic reform.

As detailed above, USCBC's overall assessment uses a three-color dashboard, rating China's overall reforms as either limited, moderate, or significant based on the impact they have had on foreign companies. USCBC's overall rating is based on multiple rounds of internal discussion about numerous factors, including the average rating of policies in the database and how much of an effect the overall body of reform policies has had on the business environment as a whole.

## Appendix 2: Policy Announcements Related to Nationwide Economic Reform

### I. Overall Reform

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
5/24/13	<a href="#">Notice on Key Priorities in Deepening Economic Reforms</a>	State Council	Sets key priorities for deepening economic reform in 2013, and assigns them to key agencies. Key areas include administrative licensing, tax and budgeting, financial reform, investment, pricing, social security, and urbanization.	<u>Limited:</u> While the document laid out key areas of reform in 2013, little progress was made on these areas in 2013 and early 2014. While progress has been made since in some of these areas, such as administrative licensing, urbanization, tax and financial reform, and resource product pricing, even these reforms continue to have a limited impact -- and it is not clear that such progress is tied to this particular plan.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
11/15/13	<a href="#">The Decision on Major Issues Concerning Comprehensive and Far-Reaching Reforms</a>	CCP	Outlines over 300 reform priorities discussed during the Third Plenum. Reforms are to be implemented by 2020.	<b>Limited:</b> Describes a litany of government reforms that will have a direct impact on foreign companies. Clearly defines government priority to allow the market to play a greater role in the economy. While potential policy impact remains high, limited implementation of major reforms to date limits this impact to limited.
6/27/14	<a href="#">Notice on the Outline for Establishing a Social Credit System (2014-2020)</a>	State Council	Outlines plans to accelerate the creation of a nationwide credit system (including credit reporting) in China by 2020. The outline focuses on four key areas for establishing the social credit system: government integrity, business integrity, social integrity, and public confidence in the judiciary.	<b>Limited:</b> While building such a nationwide credit system could have a significant impact on transparency and financial development, the policy is more aspirational than detailed, meaning there are few concrete policies included. Additionally, the direct impact of this policy is limited to credit-related institutions. In August 2015, NDRC and PBOC announced they will establish 11 credit system demonstration cities by 2017.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
11/16/14	<a href="#">Several Opinions on Promoting the Healthy Development of Domestic Trade Circulation</a>	State Council	Lays out high-level goals for improving domestic trade development, including promoting e-commerce, expediting logistics and distribution development, emphasizing the development of chain stores, and strengthening logistics infrastructure.	<b>Moderate:</b> The opinions do not lay out concrete measures for improving domestic trade, but more recent moves on e-commerce indicate that these opinions have begun to be implemented. There has been less progress to date in other areas.
1/29/15	<a href="#">Notice on Expanding Reform Trial Experiences out of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone</a>	State Council	Introduces a mix of 35 openings and administrative procedures from the Shanghai FTZ now available on a national scale. Highlights include online tax registration, foreign exchange capital settlement for FIEs, allowing the establishment of FIE credit research companies, and allowing the establishment of FIEs in the form of shareholding companies.	<b>Limited:</b> A positive step at replicating on a national scale a number of reforms that will affect a broad range of companies across multiple sectors. The list is limited to 35 items that are indirectly related to core issues of equal treatment and market access. The limited potential impact means a moderate instead of significant rating.
2/14/15	<a href="#">Several Opinions on Accelerating the Development of Trade in Services</a>	State Council	Lays out seven primary tasks to develop trade in services, including promoting the growth of a handful of large Chinese companies in certain services sectors that are competitive abroad. The Opinions also attach a list announcing the work priorities for 25 service areas, with specific government agencies in charge of the tasks.	<b>Limited:</b> High-level opinions that promote reform and supporting trade with a focus on Chinese companies. There is a lack of any specific measures, so there is no immediate impact until follow-up details are provided.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/23/15	<a href="#">Several Opinions on Deepening Regime Reform and Accelerating Innovation-Driven Development Strategies</a>	State Council	Proposes to create a policy and legal system by 2020 that is focused on supporting innovation-driven development. Principles to be followed include creating a market based on fair competition that inspires innovation, strengthening financial innovation, and encouraging the commercialization of scientific and technological results.	<b>Limited:</b> Aspirational long-term goals without detail on how to achieve these goals; however, discussions on promoting domestic innovation could have an important impact on companies in many sectors, depending on implementation.
3/28/15	<a href="#">Vision and Actions on Jointly Building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road ("One Belt, One Road")</a>	NDRC, MOFCOM	Sets an ambitious economic vision for the development of regions and countries along China's "One Belt, One Road" corridor. Cooperative development priorities will include policy coordination, facilities connectivity, investment and trade cooperation, financial integration, and people-to-people bonding.	<b>Moderate:</b> High-level integration of foreign policy and economic goals by developing markets outside of China through infrastructure development and other projects, but immediate impact on foreign companies is likely limited.
4/9/15	<a href="#">Implementation Plan on Carrying out the Decisions of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CCP Central Committee to Further Deepen the Judicial System and Social System Reform</a>	CCP General Office, State Council General Office	Identifies 84 judicial and social system reform measures that came out of the Fourth Plenum and divides them into three categories: ensuring the fair administration of justice, promoting societal rule of law, and strengthening team building to enforce rule of law. Each task is also assigned to a specific set of government departments, and includes desired outcomes they will be measured against. However, the list of 84 measures and their agency assignments was not made public.	<b>None:</b> While work to assign specific reform tasks to agencies is a positive step, the list of 84 measures and their assignments is not public – making it impossible to assess the specific tasks and their likely implementation. Without further details, no impact on foreign company concerns can be attributed at this time.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
4/13/15	<a href="#">Notice on the Development Plan for City Clusters on the Central Yangtze River</a>	NDRC	Introduces a plan for developing China's central, western, northeast, and other inland regions that are currently underdeveloped. The overall goal for the plan is to shrink the development gap between different regions in China. The plan focuses on integrating development of urban and rural areas and connecting infrastructure across regions.	<b>Limited:</b> Broad plans for developing regions in China through joint infrastructure development and urbanization efforts. Potential opportunities for foreign companies involved in supplying infrastructure developers in China, but little detail at this point to suggest specific opportunities for foreign investment.
5/12/15	<a href="#">Several Opinions on Accelerating the Cultivation of New Competitive Edges in Foreign Trade</a>	State Council	Aims to shift China's economy to become more quality driven and profit oriented by diversifying China's export destinations, leading the creation of international rules, and pushing Chinese companies to compete on quality rather than price.	<b>Limited:</b> The opinions are vague and lack specific implementation details. The focus is primarily on increasing exports from domestic Chinese companies. The only reference to foreign investment is regarding bringing in foreign capital, technology, and know-how. The policy promotes the propagation of Chinese domestic standards, which might raise concerns among companies who abide by existing internationally recognized standards.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
5/15/15	<a href="#">Notice of the Work Plan for Promoting Decentralization and Transformation of Government Functions in 2015</a>	State Council	Cancels all non-administrative approvals (removes the entire category) and delegates/cancels over 200 administrative approvals, but does not specify which approvals. Sets the timetable and clarifies ministries' responsibilities in finalizing decentralization work.	<u>Limited</u> : Promotes reform in administrative licensing and approvals. Assigned timetables and ministry responsibilities are positive steps in accountability, but a lack of detail on industry scope and depth of reform makes it difficult to forecast impact.
5/18/15	<a href="#">Opinions of the Working Priorities in Deepening Economic Reform in 2015</a>	State Council	Specifies 39 targets in eight reform areas, with priority on administrative reform, fiscal reform, and financial reform, as well as reforms related to urbanization, environmental protection, and social safety nets. The opinions also detail the framework for SOE reforms, touching upon state asset administration, SOE restructuring, and privatization.	<u>Limited</u> : Many of the reform priorities are not new, such as drug price reform and reduced foreign investment restrictions already included in the Catalogue Guiding Foreign Investment. Largely domestic focused, the opinions fall short of introducing any measures with significant and immediate impact on foreign companies.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/24/15	<a href="#">Several Opinions on Promoting the Stable Growth of Imports and Exports</a>	State Council	Calls for eliminating or regulating import/export fees, maintaining a reasonable RMB exchange rate, enhancing support for export credit insurance, and expanding the scope of preferred interest rates for imported technologies and consumer goods.	<b>Limited:</b> The opinions are a guiding document that focuses on macro policy, and do not set any rules or regulations. The immediate impact on companies is limited.
9/17/15	<a href="#">Several Opinions on Constructing the New Open Economic System</a>	CCP Central Committee and the State Council	Further opens the Chinese economy by improving foreign capital management, encouraging outbound investment, and stabilizing foreign trade. The policy calls for the release of a negative list with improved investment supervision, and for particular openings for foreign companies in both manufacturing and services. An October 2015 policy provided a more concrete roadmap for releasing initial negative lists.	<b>Significant:</b> Nationwide negative list approach laid out in these policies could represent important changes for foreign companies once released, and the policy has already seen further implementation details. Could be significant if the first draft negative list contains real openings.
12/10/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of Enterprise Environmental Credit System</a>	MEP, NDRC	Establishes a credit system that collects environmental management information produced or obtained by the departments of environmental protection in the process of performing their duties, and records them into the enterprise environmental credit record. This information can be divided into basic credit information and bad credit information. Relevant environmental protection departments shall treat enterprises in administrative licensing, policy support and other aspects according to their credit status. This system will take effect nationwide by 2020.	<b>Limited:</b> Has the potential to increase the transparency of environmental regulations and decisions in China. As foreign companies generally implement global best practices that exceed local environmental requirements, this could be a positive development for foreign companies when applying for administrative licenses and preferential policies. The full impact of the opinions will be unclear until implementation regulations are released.

## II. Foreign Investment

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
2/7/13	<a href="#">Implementation Opinions on Further Developing Local Medical Institutions</a>	Shanghai Municipal Health Bureau and 13 other Shanghai-based agencies	Encourages foreign investment and pledges future reductions in investment barriers in healthcare services, including new medical institutions, high-level medical service centers, and underdeveloped healthcare services including elderly care, rehabilitation, mental health, pediatrics, and obstetrics.	<b>Limited:</b> Discusses investment openings in key areas. Though the policy does not create direct openings, follow-up regulations (such as the Notice on Carrying out the Pilot Program Establishing Wholly Foreign-Owned Hospitals) indicate some progress in Shanghai and various Chinese provinces, though there has been no evidence to date indicating that approvals under the pilot are being issued. Other moves--such as the inclusion of medical institutions in the "restricted" category of the 2015 Catalogue Guiding Foreign Investment--indicate that restrictions will continue.
5/2/13	<a href="#">Notice on Renminbi Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors (RQFII) issuing securities in China</a>	PBOC	Clarifies specific procedures and requirements for RQFII registration process and the responsibility of regional PBOC office in regulating pilots.	<b>None:</b> Process-oriented reform with limited impact on foreign companies.
5/11/13	<a href="#">Regulations on the Administration of Foreign Exchange in Onshore Direct Investment by Foreign Investors</a>	SAFE	Simplifies procedures and policies on foreign exchange issues for foreign direct investment including issues regarding registration, opening an account, payment, selling and purchasing of foreign exchange. The regulation also abolishes 24 foreign exchange administrative regulations.	<b>Moderate:</b> Applies directly to foreign companies investing in China and streamlines relevant foreign-exchange related procedures, but only applies to SAFE rules and does not address broader barriers and delays that foreign companies are most concerned with.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
6/8/13	<a href="#">Modification to Regulations on Foreign Insurance Companies</a>	CIRC	Modifies regulations for foreign insurance companies to allow them to make capital contributions via RMB or other currencies, and allows foreign insurance companies to allocate working capital to their branches in China via RMB-denominated income.	<b>Limited:</b> Process improvements for insurance companies on registered capital issues, but does not impact market access and is limited purely to one sector.
9/23/13	<a href="#">Notice on Relevant Matters Regarding RMB Settlement of Foreign Investors Investing in Domestic Financial Institutions</a>	PBOC	Allows foreign investors approved to invest in domestic financial institutions to use RMB in specific activities including capital increases, mergers and acquisitions, equity transfer, distribution of profits, liquidation, etc.	<b>Moderate:</b> Broadens the ability for foreign companies to directly use RMB to expand investments in China.
12/2/13	<a href="#">Catalogue of Investment Projects Subject to Government Approval (2013 revision)</a>	State Council	Transitions numerous investment projects to the record-filing system from the approval system in an effort to streamline administrative approvals. Adopts a "negative list" approach designating investment projects that will still be subject to administrative approvals.	<b>Moderate:</b> Impact on companies across a range of sectors, supporting government efforts to shift to a negative list approach in investment approvals. However, the impact is only limited to local NDRC approvals and the actual impact for foreign companies is limited given that it does not have any effect on the other steps in the foreign investment approval process, such as MOFCOM or other agency reviews.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/2/13	<a href="#">Catalogue of Investment Projects Subject to Government Approval (2013 revision)</a>	State Council	Transitions numerous investment projects to the record-filing system from the approval system in an effort to streamline administrative approvals. Adopts a "negative list" approach designating investment projects that will still be subject to administrative approvals.	<u>Moderate</u> : Impact on companies across a range of sectors, and supports government efforts to shift towards a negative list approach in investment approvals. However, the impact is only limited to local NDRC approvals and the actual impact for foreign companies is limited given that it does not have any effect on the other steps in the foreign investment approval process, such as MOFCOM or other agency reviews.
12/28/13	<a href="#">Notice on Improving Regulations of the Approval of Investment Projects and Strengthening Coordinated Supervision</a>	NDRC, MLR, MEP, MOHURD, CBRC	Reduces pre-examinations and strengthens supervision during and after the approval process. NDRC will no longer review the items that are decided by enterprises such as market prospects, economic profitability, fund sources, etc.	<u>Moderate</u> : Streamlines the approval process by cutting the pre-approval process for foreign and domestic investment projects. However, the impact is only limited to local NDRC approvals and the actual impact for foreign companies is limited given that there is no effect on the other steps in the foreign investment approval process.
3/1/14	<a href="#">Administrative Provisions on Company Registered Capital Registration</a>	SAIC	Brings SAIC's company registration rules in line with amendments to China's Company Law by eliminating minimum registered capital requirements, transitioning from a paid-in capital system to a subscribed capital system, and replacing annual inspection system with an annual reporting system.	<u>Moderate</u> : Streamlines administrative processes, marking an important step. Impact is limited to SAIC steps in the approval process, though other agencies (such as NDRC) have also promoted reforms. Foreign company registration is still subject, however, to a separate set of MOFCOM rules.
4/8/14	<a href="#">Notice on Tianjin Pilot Free Trade Zone Overall Plan</a>	State Council	Announces the official approval for a FTZ to be located in Tianjin.	<u>Moderate</u> : Introduction of new FTZs has the potential to be positive, but when reflecting on the Shanghai FTZ and the slow pace established for expanding FTZ policies nationwide, it is yet to be seen if most companies will benefit.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
4/8/14	<a href="#">Notice on Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone Overall Plan</a>	State Council	Announces the official approval for a FTZ to be located in Guangdong.	<u>Moderate</u> : Introduction of new FTZs has the potential to be positive, but when reflecting on the Shanghai FTZ and the slow pace established for expanding FTZ policies nationwide, it is yet to be seen if most companies will benefit.
4/8/14	<a href="#">Notice on Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone Overall Plan</a>	State Council	Announces the official approval for a FTZ to be located in Fujian.	<u>Moderate</u> : Introduction of new FTZs has the potential to be positive, but when reflecting on the Shanghai FTZ and the slow pace established for expanding FTZ policies nationwide, it is yet to be seen if most companies will benefit.
5/15/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Promoting Foreign Trade</a>	State Council	Encourages Chinese government agencies to increase multilateral trade and outbound investment, promote a free-floating RMB exchange mechanism and RMB settlement, strengthen trading competitiveness, and improve online and traditional trading platforms.	<u>Moderate</u> : Contains positive language about liberalizing trade. Though the general opinion contained no specifics, follow-up moves allowing the RMB exchange rate to move both up and down and expanding RMB settlement indicate progress for companies in a range of sectors.
5/20/14	<a href="#">Administrative Measures for the Approval and Filing of Foreign Investment Projects</a>	NDRC	Allows some foreign investment projects to use a streamlined filing process. Eligible projects include those listed in the "encouraged category" of the Catalogue Guiding Foreign Investment that do not have Chinese ownership requirements and do not fall under one of the special approval requirements in the 2013 Catalogue of Investment Projects Subject to Government Ratification.	<u>Moderate</u> : Allows numerous foreign investment projects to go through a simplified filing system, and uses a much-welcomed negative list approach. Impact is limited to NDRC steps in the approval process, though other agencies (such as SAIC) have also promoted reforms.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
5/26/14	<a href="#">Administrative Measures on the Government Examination and Approval of Investment Projects</a>	NDRC	Provides more specific process guidelines for regulating NDRC's review of investment projects based on a previously released catalogue that allows foreign companies to use a simplified filing system.	<b>Moderate:</b> The measures provide broad oversight authority to the NDRC to review investment projects based on a previously released catalogue that allows foreign companies to use a simplified filing system.
5/30/14	<a href="#">Notice on Carrying out the Optimization of Approval of Foreign Investments</a>	MOFCOM	Launches a pilot program that would streamline approvals of foreign investment projects by foreign companies and FIEs, eliminating steps in the approval process and attempting to simplify the documentation that applicants must provide to establish a new FIE. The pilot program runs for three months, until August 31.	<b>Limited:</b> Scope of the pilot project would allow investments across a range of industries to benefit from process improvements to make foreign investment approvals faster and easier. However, the pilot program is quite short—leading to questions about whether such a short pilot with such a short lead time could lead to meaningful implementation. Improvements are primarily process-related.
8/27/14	<a href="#">Notice on Carrying out the Pilot Program Establishing Wholly Foreign-Owned Hospitals</a>	NHFPC, MOFCOM	Lays out the requirements, standards, and approval processes for foreign investors applying to qualify for establishing wholly foreign-owned hospitals in China. Currently seven provincial/municipal pilot regions have been selected.	<b>Limited:</b> Potential to have a deep impact on foreign companies looking to invest in this sector, as it is essentially creating equal treatment for foreign and domestic investors in hospitals nationwide (with the exception of traditional Chinese medicine hospitals). However, the revised 2015 Catalogue Guiding Foreign Investment added medical institutions to the restricted category, limiting foreign investment to EJVs and CJVs. Due to policy uncertainty, this notice has limited significance.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
10/14/14	<a href="#">Reply to Issues Concerning the Provision of Online Data Processing and Transaction Processing Services by Service Providers from Hong Kong and Macao in Guangdong Province</a>	State Council	Provides approval for implementing an MIIT plan for allowing service providers from Hong Kong and Macau to provide online data processing services (e-commerce) in Guangdong with ownership cap of 55 percent.	<b>None:</b> This announcement, while potentially representing a big step in expanding a Shanghai FTZ liberalization beyond the zone, is limited to market openings for Hong Kong and Macao investors in e-commerce in Guangdong.
11/18/14	<a href="#">Catalogue of Investment Projects Subject to Government Approval (2014 Version)</a>	State Council	Adjusts catalogue of investment projects requiring government approval, including delegating approvals to lower level authorities and lifting control of foreign investments.	<b>Moderate:</b> Positive step towards decentralizing decision making and improving foreign investment access for certain projects. However, like the 2013 catalogue, the impact is only limited to local NDRC approvals and the actual impact for foreign companies is limited given that it does not have any effect on the other steps in the foreign investment approval process, such as MOFCOM or other agency reviews.
12/2/14	<a href="#">Announcement on Encouraging Foreign Investors to Establish For-Profit Elder Care Facilities</a>	MOFCOM, MCA	Encourages foreign investors to set up for-profit elder care institutions in China as a WFOE or JV.	<b>Limited:</b> Potential to have important impact on foreign investment, but limited to a narrow sector (elder care industries). Additionally, the notice lacks implementing details.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
2/2/15	<a href="#">Notice on the Foreign Investment Statistics System (2015)</a>	MOFCOM	Defines comprehensive rules and requirements for a statistical reporting system for FIEs to report their investment data to all local MOFCOM offices. Information provided includes basic information about the company, investment, operations, and shareholding; companies in banking, insurance, securities, and energy have additional requirements.	<b>None:</b> While a significant document in terms of FIE reporting and operations, the 2015 system is an update of older rules, and does not make major changes that would impact operations.
3/13/15	<a href="#">Catalogue Guiding Foreign Investment in Industry (2015 Revision)</a>	NDRC, MOFCOM	Comprehensive catalogue outlining sectors of the Chinese economy where foreign investment is encouraged, restricted, or prohibited.	<b>Limited:</b> Presents new openings in a number of areas, focusing mainly on manufacturing. However, many key concerns raised by foreign companies, such as barriers in agriculture and financial services, were not addressed in the revisions. Discussions with members highlight that the newly opened sectors are not areas foreign companies are looking to invest in.
4/22/15	<a href="#">Decision to Implement Management of Market Access for Bank Card Clearing Agencies</a>	State Council	Sets new conditions for investment in China's bank card clearing sector to be compliant with commitments made as part of China's WTO accession. To qualify, companies must have at least RMB 1 billion (\$161 million) in registered capital, adhere to national and industrial bank card clearing system standards, and have senior leadership receive CBRC approval for employment credentials.	<b>Limited:</b> Significant opening in a narrow industry that has been traditionally monopolized by one company. Potential direct benefit to a number of foreign bank card clearing companies, but there still exist several stringent qualification requirements that will make market entry difficult.
5/29/15	<a href="#">Announcement on Loosening Part of the Regional Restrictions on Facilities for Value-added Telecom Services</a>	MIIT	Expands the geographical scope from the FTZ to all of Shanghai for call centers and virtual private network service edge routers, and allows website accelerator servers to be placed nationwide.	<b>Limited:</b> This measure has a narrow geographic and sectoral scope.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
6/19/15	<a href="#">Announcement on Lifting the Restrictions on the Foreign Equity Ratios on the Online Data Processing and Transaction Processing Businesses (Operating E-commerce)</a>	MIIT	Removes caps on foreign equity ratios in online data processing and transaction processing businesses, allowing foreign investors to have 100 percent ownership in such businesses nationwide.	<b>Limited:</b> Despite allowing foreign investors 100 percent ownership in online data processing and transaction processing businesses, foreign companies would still need to obtain an Internet content provider (ICP) license to operate in this space. However, ICP licenses are only given to 50-50 or minority JVs, eliminating any benefit from wholly foreign-owned online data processing and transaction processing business. The measure also is limited to one sector.
7/1/15	<a href="#">Implementing Rules of the Administrative Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Foreign-invested Banks</a>	CBRC	Cancels the requirement to establish a representative office before establishing a commercial operation. Relaxes requirements for conducting business in RMB to having one or more years' experience from the previous three or more years' experience. Cancels the requirement that applicants have two consecutive years of profits. Cancels the minimum operating capital requirement foreign banks must allocate to domestic branches.	<b>Limited:</b> The implementing rules will ease administrative requirements for foreign-invested banks, but are not likely to result in significant operational changes or openings.
9/30/15	<a href="#">PBOC Announcement [2015] No.31</a>	PBOC	Allows foreign central banks, official reserve management agencies, international financial institutions, and sovereign wealth funds to freely enter the Chinese market through various means to practice a wide variety of trades such as spot exchange, forward transaction, swap transaction, and futures trading.	<b>None:</b> Applies only to certain official institutions, and does not create direct opportunities for foreign commercial or investment banks.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
10/27/15	<a href="#">Decision on Temporarily Adjusting the Special Administrative Measures for Administrative Approval and Access in Beijing Municipality</a>	State Council	Offers a few market access openings, enabling foreign-owned performance brokerage institutions to provide services in specific areas of the culture and entertainment industry in Beijing and canceling restrictions on foreign holdings in foreign-invested aircraft maintenance projects.	<b>Limited:</b> Offers a few market access openings, but liberalization is limited to these sectors.
12/7/15	<a href="#">Practical Guidelines for the Quota Administration on Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors</a>	SAFE	Relaxes rules governing how QFII investors can use credit transfers between products, and gives foreign investors greater flexibility to invest in China's domestic market.	<b>Limited:</b> Encourages more foreign capital in China's stock market, creating additional investor opportunities while also strengthening China's stock market. However, the announcement does not address market access issues.

### III. Administrative Licensing and Approval Reform

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
5/15/13	<a href="#">Decision on Cancelling and Decentralizing Administrative Items by the State Council</a>	State Council	Eliminates or decentralizes 104 administrative items on the State Council website, including administrative approvals, awards, and administrative fees.	<b>Limited:</b> Few of the items included are among those of most concern to foreign companies, though the notice did make some changes in areas such as representative office registration, shipping, service outsourcing, and education appointments.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/13/13	<a href="#">Decision on Removing 50 Administrative Approvals</a>	State Council	Eliminates or decentralizes 50 administrative approval items.	<u>Limited</u> : Eliminates a small number of approval items that apply to foreign investments in specific areas such as certain types of imported cosmetics, medical services, and the movie industry.
7/24/13	<a href="#">Notice on the Release of Regulations on Services Trade Foreign Exchange</a>	SAFE	Shortens the approval process for cross-border services to ensure the healthy growth of the domestic services industry.	<u>Limited</u> : Relaxes requirements restricting domestic companies from depositing foreign exchange overseas, but such moves have a limited impact on the main challenges that many foreign companies face.
8/2/13	<a href="#">Notice on Partially Cutting Administrative Fees</a>	NDRC, MOF	Lowers administrative fees for a variety of approvals required by 14 ministries.	<u>Limited</u> : Marginally reduces administrative fees in certain areas (e.g. trademark application fees were reduced from RMB 1000 to RMB 800).
8/20/13	<a href="#">Notice on Easing the Visa and Residency Process for Foreign Talent</a>	MHRSS	Streamlines the visa and residency permit application process for qualified foreign talent working in the PRC.	<u>Limited</u> : Streamlines the application process for foreign and domestic companies' high-skilled employees from overseas, but this is not a huge issue for foreign companies.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/19/13	<a href="#">Notice on Strictly Limiting New Administrative Licensing Procedures</a>	State Council	Limits the number of new administrative licensing procedures.	<b>Limited:</b> Broad impact on overall reform push to simplify administrative licensing procedures. The initial policy had few details; some follow-up policies appear to cite the regulation in efforts to streamline licensing processes, but few have a significant impact on foreign company issues.
10/24/13	<a href="#">Notice on Removing 314 Provincial-level Administrative Fees</a>	MOF, NDRC	Eliminates 314 administrative fees collected by local authorities.	<b>Limited:</b> Advances central government efforts to reduce administrative fees, but few of the fees impacted are among US companies' top concerns.
11/8/13	<a href="#">Decision on Cancelling and Delegating Several Administrative Approval Items</a>	State Council	Cancels or delegates to lower levels of government 68 administrative approval items.	<b>Limited:</b> Advances government reforms to streamline administrative approvals, but few of these decentralizations touch on top foreign company concerns.
11/14/13	<a href="#">Administrative Approval Rules for Domestic Commercial Banks</a>	CBRC	Eliminates some approval items, and delegates authority for others to lower-level authorities.	<b>None:</b> Only applies to domestic banks, but also pushes forward administrative licensing reforms.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
11/15/13	<a href="#">Catalogue Decentralizing MEP Approval Authority Over Environmental Impact Assessment Documents</a>	MEP	Decentralizes approval authority over a total of 25 projects, mainly infrastructure projects and projects with minor environmental impact, such as distributed gas-fired generation, urban rapid rail transportation, civil airport expansion, pumped storage power station and other projects.	<u>Limited</u> : Streamlines approval for environmental and infrastructure projects, but impact is limited, and only for foreign companies interested in this sector.
1/8/14	<a href="#">State Council Executive Meeting on the Cancellation and Decentralization of 70 Administrative Inspection and Approval Items</a>	State Council	Cancels and decentralizes 70 administrative examination and approval items.	<u>None</u> : List is not yet publicly released, so no indication of any impact.
1/13/14	<a href="#">Notice on Implementing the Decision of the State Council on Eliminating and Delegating a Batch of Administrative Approval Items</a>	SAT	Reduces administrative tax approval items and increases transparency requirements.	<u>Limited</u> : Small step forward in reducing administrative approval requirements, but does not address investment barriers that are of greatest concern to foreign companies.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
2/7/14	<a href="#">Notice on Registered Capital Registration System Reform</a>	State Council	Lowers requirements for registering new businesses and simplifying procedures in a move aimed at promoting a more market-oriented economy.	<b>Moderate:</b> Sets foundations for reducing registered capital requirements and easing the incorporation process for domestic and foreign companies. However, this impacts only one aspect of the foreign investment process, and not the most troublesome (market access).
2/18/14	<a href="#">Decision on Cancelling and Decentralizing a Batch of Administrative Approval Items</a>	State Council	Cancels or decentralizes 64 administrative approval items and 18 sub-items that are closely related to business development such as the establishment of an enterprise, production license, business scope and disposal of assets and capital.	<b>Moderate:</b> Eliminates selected business process approvals in a range of areas, including approvals related to foreign-invested banks and financial institutions.
3/25/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Further Optimizing the Market Environment for Enterprise Merger and Reorganizations</a>	State Council	Streamlines M&A approval procedures by addressing issues in examinations and approval, financing, auditing, and service and institutional mechanisms that serve as obstacles for reorganization.	<b>Limited:</b> Progress in simplifying M&A approvals and increasing transparency that also applies to foreign companies, but questions remain as to how many foreign transactions may be able to take advantage of streamlined procedures. However, policy uncertainty around foreign enterprises M&A activities remains, especially with the draft Foreign Investment Law and its more extensive national-security review regime.
4/22/14	<a href="#">Notice on the Elimination of Non-Administrative Approval Items</a>	State Council	Requires administrative agencies to review and eliminate non-administrative approval items.	<b>Moderate:</b> While the notice does not directly eliminate any administrative items, it formally requires agencies to review and eliminate these items, creating significant opportunities for administrative licensing reform. In May 2015, the State Council cancelled 49 non-administrative licensing approval items, and eliminated the non-administrative licensing category.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
6/17/14	<a href="#">Notice on Improving Foreign Investment Review and Administration</a>	MOFCOM	Removes requirements on initial capital contributions and capital contribution timelines for foreign companies, as well as registered capital requirements, except where stated otherwise by law.	<b>Moderate:</b> The notice importantly eliminates requirements for how companies arrange capital contributions. This will simplify procedures for some companies that register a new entity or engage in a JV, but does not address the broader issue of separate regulatory regimes for foreign and domestic firms.
6/23/14	<a href="#">Notice on Promoting the Streamlining of Regulator Authority and Market Access</a>	CBRC	Simplifies bank approval procedures by eliminating certain administrative approvals (such as approval for Chinese commercial banks and rural banks to open securities trust investment services in China for qualified foreign institutional investors), promoting more decentralization of approval authorities, particularly oversight of local financial institutions; and promoting greater consistency in approval processes and standards through various means, including unified examination and inspection procedures.	<b>Limited:</b> Administrative approvals and licensing are important issues for foreign enterprises, but this does not set forth any new treatment for foreign enterprises. This policy is instead directed at improving domestic banking bureaucracy.
6/26/14	<a href="#">Notice on Further Tightening Enterprise-related Charging Administration to Reduce Enterprise Burdens</a>	State Council	Introduces measures to control administrative and other government fees that are charged to enterprises by establishing a specific list of authorized fees with allowable values; only charges in this list are permitted. The notice also requires the removal of any pre-approval charges that lack a legal basis.	<b>Limited:</b> While the policy is national in scale and contributes to increased transparency, administrative fees are not a top concern of foreign companies and will not have a major influence on operations.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/25/14	<a href="#">Notice on Improving the Registration System for Foreign Investments in Real Estate</a>	MOFCOM, SAFE	Establishes an electronic filing system for foreign companies to register real estate investments, and delegates oversight from central to provincial-level MOFCOM departments.	<u>Limited:</u> Reform makes some improvement to the previous approval process for real estate investment, but the notice does not change the amount, type, or any other relevant market access condition for foreign investments in real estate.
8/12/14	<a href="#">Decision on Cancelling and Adjusting a Batch of Administrative Approvals</a>	State Council	Removes or relaxes administrative approval processes for certain investment projects and professional certifications. In total, 95 measures have been removed or relaxed, though very few directly impact foreign companies.	<u>Limited:</u> Though a positive symbolic step, impact on foreign companies is limited. For example, one cancellation eliminates MOFCOM and NDRC pre-approval for FIE investments in "encouraged" industries from the CGFI, making that process easier – but ignoring the broader investment issues that companies face if their industries are not marked as "encouraged."
8/15/14	<a href="#">Decision on Revising Certain Administrative Regulations</a>	State Council	Removes certain articles covering administrative approvals in 21 different existing regulatory measures, such as the Telecommunication Provisions and the Administrative Regulations on Civil Explosives.	<u>Limited:</u> While a few of these regulations touch on foreign company interests, revisions are primarily general or process-oriented, and do not create new market opportunities for foreign companies; the majority of revised regulations are not directed at foreign companies.
8/19/14	<a href="#">Notice on Properly Handling the Change in Registration Requirements from Pre-Registration to Post-Registration</a>	SAIC	Revises current requirements that businesses must first receive administrative approvals from other agencies before applying for a business license from SAIC. Instead, companies are now permitted to apply directly for a business license from SAIC first and can apply for other administrative approvals if required.	<u>Limited:</u> Streamlines the process for opening new facilities somewhat, though it does not address or create market access opportunities, or address the larger challenges in administrative licensing.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/11/14	<a href="#">Implementation Measures on Administrative Licensing of Foreign-invested Banks</a>	CBRC	Replaces 2006 implementation measures on administrative licensing for FIE banks. These measures simplify administrative licensing procedures – such as narrowing the scope for approval of articles of association – and strengthen regulation on who may serve on a board of directors.	<b>Moderate:</b> Measures simplify administrative procedures for foreign banks, allowing them to establish unlimited sub-branches in cities where they have operations and eliminating minimum working capital requirements for new offices. While impact is limited to the banking sector, the measures will allow more operational space.
11/1/14	<a href="#">Notice on Issues Concerning Reduction and Elimination of Administrative Fees on Elder Care Institutions and Medical Institutions</a>	MOF, NDRC	Removes all administrative fees for non-profit elder care and healthcare facilities, and 50 percent of administrative fees for for-profit elder care and healthcare facilities.	<b>Limited:</b> Potential to have an important impact on foreign investment specific to the healthcare and elder care industries, though impact is focused more on operations than market access and remains focused on a very narrow sector.
11/24/14	<a href="#">Decision on Cancelling and Adjusting a Batch of Administrative Examination and Approval Items</a>	State Council	Eliminates, adjusts, or decentralizes a batch of 226 administrative approvals.	<b>Limited:</b> Few of the items included are among those of most concern to foreign companies, though the notice did make some changes in areas such as commercial registration for foreign-invested enterprises.
12/8/14	<a href="#">Notice on Cancelling and Adjusting Administrative Approval Items</a>	CIRC	Cancels CIRC administrative approvals and credentials for actuaries for insurance companies, and changes the credentials to a post-approval registration requirement with SAIC.	<b>Limited:</b> Continued cancellation of administrative burdens is a positive step towards reducing government bureaucracy, but this small change has limited effect on foreign companies in general.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/9/14	<a href="#">Notice on Adjusting the Administrative Policies Concerning the Access of the Inter-bank Foreign Exchange Market by Financial Institutions</a>	SAFE	Cancels the requirement for SAFE to give pre-approval for qualified financial institutions to participate in the interbank foreign exchange and derivatives trading markets.	<b>Limited:</b> Streamlines the process for qualified institutions set up within China – a category which includes some foreign banks – to offer certain types of financial products in China, but does not create new market openings for foreign banks.
12/23/14	<a href="#">Notice on the Cancellation, Suspension and Exemption of a Batch of Administrative Fees</a>	NDRC, MOF	Cancels or suspends for all enterprises a batch of 12 central-government level administrative fees (such as land management fees and business registration fees), and for small and micro-sized enterprises an additional batch of 42 administrative fees (such as fees for software copyright registration and drug development assessment). The notice was in effect as of January 1, 2015.	<b>Limited:</b> Positive step at promoting small business development and reducing bureaucracy, but impact on foreign companies likely will be limited as this notice cancels or suspends a limited number of fees that would impact them.
12/23/14	<a href="#">Notice on Exempting Small and Micro-Sized Enterprises from Contributing to Certain Government Funds</a>	MOF, SAT	Exempts qualifying small and micro-sized enterprises from contributing to certain government tax funds (such as education funding, the water construction fund, and the cultural industry construction fund) between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017.	<b>Limited:</b> An effort to promote small businesses in China. Will have little impact on the majority of foreign companies operating in China due to RMB 30,000 monthly revenue cap to qualify for exemption.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/29/14	<a href="#">Work Plan for Simplifying Approval Items, Standardizing Intermediary Services, and Implementing Parallel Online Approval Mechanisms for Enterprise Investment Projects</a>	State Council	Creates a work plan for government agencies to clean up all unnecessary pre-approvals for investment projects under their purview, calling for the establishment of an online administrative approval platform for investment projects. Provides an appendix of government pre-approvals and their supporting rationale, while essentially requiring any approvals not in the appendix to be reported to SCLAO for review. Requires SCLAO by June 2015 to submit a report to NPC Standing Committee to approve, cancel, or amend the pre-approvals.	<b>Moderate:</b> Sets clear, specific timelines and goals for government agencies to eliminate unnecessary approvals for investment projects, streamline their approval processes, and create an online approval system. Impact could be significant depending on implementation of the work plan. SCLAO has drafted Regulations of Managing Government Approval and Filing of Investment Projects, and its public comment period ends in late August 2015.
12/31/14	<a href="#">Notice on Prohibiting Matters Pertaining to the Autonomy of Enterprises as Preconditions for the Approval of Enterprise Investment Projects</a>	NDRC, State Commission Office of Public Sector Reforms	Specifies 18 areas where investment approval pre-conditions can no longer be used. Areas include bank loan commitments, financial letters of credit, feasibility study reviews, and review of rail line issues. This notice follows up on NDRC's previous announcement requiring follow-up work on announcing removal of investment pre-approvals.	<b>Moderate:</b> Removes some investment pre-approval conditions with language forbidding government interference in a company's autonomy. There is also a clear effort to clean up existing rules that create project approval hurdles, and blocking such barriers from re-appearing in any future regulations. However, there continue to be a number of unaddressed procedures that are unique to foreign investment in China, and this reform does little to change the underlying challenges companies face in market access.
1/27/15	<a href="#">Notice on Republishing CBRC's Program for Collecting Administrative and Institutional Fees</a>	MOF, NDRC	Authorizes CBRC to charge its supervising fees on commercial banks, credit cooperatives, finance companies, trust companies, and financial leasing offices, including institutional supervising fees and business supervising fees. Changes the method for calculating these fees for organizations.	<b>Limited:</b> Announcement requires ministry-specific implementation of items from State Council's institutional reform and functional transformation plan. However, these changes do not appear to mark any significant improvement.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
1/27/15	<a href="#">Notice on Republishing CSRC's Program for Collecting Administrative and Institutional Fees</a>	MOF, NDRC	Authorizes CSRC to charge institutional supervision fees on securities companies, and companies whose bonds and securities are traded on Chinese exchanges. Combines various documents outlining rules for determining who must pay administrative fees, clarifying how the fees are calculated, and who is exempted from the administrative fees.	<b>Limited:</b> Announcement requires ministry-specific implementation of items from State Council's institutional reform and functional transformation plan. A positive step towards transparency, but limited impact on foreign companies as they have limited business in this area.
2/12/15	<a href="#">Notice of Cancellation and Exemption of a Batch of Administrative Charges</a>	MOA	Cancels and/or exempts a batch of 14 administrative fees for small and micro enterprises. Fees being addressed include phytosanitary fees, quarantine fees for animals and animal products, and personnel relations and archives preservation fees.	<b>Limited:</b> A minor step at reducing unnecessary administrative burdens on companies, but largely aimed at domestic companies.
2/28/15	<a href="#">Notice on Further Simplifying and Improving Foreign Exchange Administration for Direct Investment</a>	SAFE	Cancels direct investment foreign exchange registration approvals, and simplifies the capital expenditure registration procedures for foreign investors.	<b>Limited:</b> Positive step at removing administrative barriers to controls on capital. Impact likely limited until broader reform measures remove controls from foreign capital exchange.
3/13/15	<a href="#">Decision on Cancelling and Adjusting a Batch of Administrative Approval Items</a>	State Council	Cancels a batch of administrative approvals and/or delegates approval authority to lower-level government bodies, and provides a list of business pre-requisite approvals that are being maintained. Sample approvals include software and integrated circuit design company accreditation and product registrations.	<b>Limited:</b> Improvements in removing administrative barriers in some areas, but statements that certain approvals such as FIE establishment approvals should not be removed indicate continued barriers.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/16/15	<a href="#">Announcement Issuing the 2015 Catalogue of Construction Projects Subject to MEP Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Approval Documents</a>	MEP	Delegates part of MEP's EIA administrative approval to provincial-level authorities, including approval on construction of thermal power stations, heat power stations, iron making and steel making, nonferrous metals smelting, national highways, and major theme parks.	<b>Limited:</b> The delegation of approval authority to lower-level agencies is likely a welcome result of the 2015 revision of China's Environmental Protection Law. Only EIAs in certain sectors require central-level MEP approval. This announcement is a further delegation of central MEP approvals to lower-level authorities, such as coal-to-natural gas manufacturing facilities, but is limited only to the projects in the 2015 EIA construction catalogue.
3/19/15	<a href="#">Several Opinions on Building Joint Regulatory Mechanisms for Innovative Investment Management</a>	State Council	Calls for jointly administering investment approval responsibilities between relevant authorities. Recommends building an online platform for investment approvals that also increases transparency.	<b>None:</b> High-level recommendations for improving the investment management and supervision regime, but no immediate changes to the business environment are made. Goals are aspirational in nature, and pending follow-up regulations for specifics on how to carry out the opinions.
3/23/15	<a href="#">Work Plan for Decoupling Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Institutions from the National Environmental Protection System</a>	MEP	Requires all entities under the environmental protection system with EIA qualifications to be decoupled from construction projects by 2016. EIA-certified entities are forbidden from any form of ownership in companies that are being assessed.	<b>Limited:</b> Positive effort at addressing corruption in the environmental protection system, with potential to help address nationwide pollution problems. The work plan is part of high-level MEP goals to standardize EIAs and make the system more accountable to public environmental concerns. Many companies use independent EIAs that fall outside the purview of this work plan, and thus the impact is limited.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/31/15	<a href="#">Notice on Cancelling and Adjusting a Batch of Administrative Approval items</a>	CIRC	Cancels administrative approvals on seven items, including changing company ownership structure in excess of 5 percent of ownership shares for insurance companies.	<b>Limited:</b> Reduces administrative burdens on companies, but scope of changes is limited.
4/6/15	<a href="#">Notice on Improving Administrative Approval and Reviews in Dealing with Solid Waste</a>	MEP	Requires provincial-level environmental protection authorities to initiate internal inspections to improve interagency regulatory transparency, address ineffective supervisory mechanisms, and boost staff technical capabilities related to supervision and approval of solid waste treatment. Inspection results and plans for improvement to be submitted to MEP by the end of June 2015.	<b>None:</b> An intra-government improvement in addressing bureaucratic issues and regulatory capabilities, but no immediate impact on foreign company concerns.
4/16/15	<a href="#">Several Opinions on Improving Port Work to Support Foreign Trade Development</a>	State Council	Calls for improving and increasing the efficiency of Chinese ports to facilitate international trade, including immediate measures such as cleaning up unnecessary port fees and cancelling or streamlining administrative approvals involved with customs clearance.	<b>Limited:</b> Increased efficiency in customs clearance and removal of unnecessary administrative approvals would be welcome changes for foreign companies. However, true impact will be determined when follow-up implementation details from industry regulators are released.
4/29/15	<a href="#">Notice on Cleaning up and Regulating Intermediary Services for Administrative Approvals by State Council Departments</a>	State Council	Prohibits departments in the State Council responsible for administrative approvals from requiring any applicant to use intermediary services (middlemen), with the exception of licensing requirements found in laws, administrative regulations, State Council decisions, and normative documents that conform to the Administrative Licensing Law.	<b>Moderate:</b> Follows previous notices from State Council regulating intermediary services across all ministries and local governments. This notice is a welcome relief from administrative burdens, and companies have noted in discussions that this has made a difference in licensing processes.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/18/15	<a href="#">State Council Opinions on Medical Device and Pharmaceutical Approval Reform</a>	State Council	Call for a thorough revamping of China's approach to drug and medical device approval systems; aimed at adopting a more scientific and effective review and approval system for drugs and medical devices, with the goal of clearing the backlog of drug registration applications by 2016, and completing reforms to establish a defined timeframe for approvals and reviews by 2018.	<b>Moderate:</b> Substantially influences the way pharmaceutical and medical device approvals are managed, but raises key concerns on the definition of "new drugs" that are out of line with international best practices.
9/1/15	<a href="#">Notice on Issues Concerning the Strict Control and Regulation of Agreements Governing Mineral Rights Transfers</a>	MLR	Simplifies approval and registration procedures for agreements governing prospecting or mining rights by providing concrete details governing such agreements, and by prohibiting authorities from instituting additional approval and registration checks to curb corruption.	<b>None:</b> Though the notice addresses corruption issues and clarifies administrative approval procedures, this is not a sector in which foreign companies can participate.
9/6/15	<a href="#">Notice on Work to Deepen Systemic Reform of the Production License for Industrial Products and Optimizing the Licensing Examination and Approval Process</a>	AQSIQ	Describes various reforms to accelerate the production license process, including limiting approval to 30 days, simplifying the production license application acceptance steps, improving enterprise review methods, and improving product testing.	<b>Moderate:</b> Marks positive progress to streamline the process of applying for a production license, but this represents only one step in the administrative licensing process for a new product.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/10/15	<a href="#">Notice on Implementing the “Three-in-One” Registration System Reform</a>	SAT	Sets specific goals and procedures for implementing reforms that would combine three existing licenses (business license, certificate of organizational code, and tax registration certificate) into one nationwide license, thus simplifying the registration and approval of business operation.	<b>Moderate:</b> Sets specific guidelines for implementing an administrative licensing reform that will impact foreign companies. However, local implementation remains slow and inconsistent.
9/11/15	<a href="#">Administrative Provisions on Business Scope Registration for Enterprises</a>	SAIC	Updates existing regulations dealing with business scope for enterprises, stipulating that a company's business scope must be consistent with its articles of incorporation or partnership agreement; those documents must be revised if the business scope changes.	<b>None:</b> Revision represents minor changes that do not create new openings or significantly streamline administrative licensing processes for foreign companies.
9/22/15	<a href="#">Notice on Work Related to Further Strengthening Management and Deepening Reform of Production License Examination and Certification Institutions</a>	AQSIQ	Permits the establishment of one or more institutions to conduct examinations for production licenses, and sets ground rules for how those institutions should operate and report to ASQIQ.	<b>Limited:</b> While the creation of quasi-independent review bodies to handle production licenses could improve service and streamline the licensing process, such improvements will not be immediate, if they materialize at all.
10/9/15	<a href="#">Notice on Issues Concerning the Cancellation and Suspension of a Batch of Administrative and Institutional Fees</a>	MOF and NDRC	Names 38 administrative and institutional fees (such as fees for obtaining an organization code certificate or recording agriculture-related IPR with customs) that will be cancelled or suspended nationwide as of either November 1, 2015 or January 1, 2016.	<b>Limited:</b> Lowers the cost for a few items that may impact foreign companies, such as fees for getting certificates for an organizational code certificate, but not expected to have a major impact on core foreign company issues.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
10/14/15	<a href="#">Decision on Canceling the First Batch of 62 Items Subject to Administrative Examination and Approval of Local Governments Designated by the Central Government</a>	State Council	Cancels 62 items (among which 29 are tax-related) subject to administrative examination and approval of local governments designated by the central government, such as the examination and approval for projects funded by social welfare funds and tax exemptions and reductions for laid-off workers engaging in individual operation.	<u>Limited</u> : Few of the items included are among those of most concern to foreign companies.
10/15/15	<a href="#">Notice on Implementing the Electronic Process for Examination and Approval of Enterprise Names</a>	SAIC	Requires that enterprises seeking SAIC examination or approval of their company name handle the whole process electronically beginning November 2015.	<u>Limited</u> : Though the swap does make some aspects of this registration process slightly easier, it does not alter the timing or requirements of the process directly.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
10/21/15	<a href="#">Announcement on Matters Concerning Product Registration and Production Approvals when Domestic Medical Device Manufacturers Open New Companies in Other Provinces</a>	CFDA	Gives direction to provincial branches of CFDA on how to handle various situations when registered medical device manufacturers apply to produce outside of the province where they are registered, and clarifies requirements and procedures when the manufacturers divide, merge, or restructure companies.	<b>None:</b> Purely a procedural clarification for local CFDA officials, with little bearing on top company issues, even in the medical device sector.
11/4/15	<a href="#">Seed Law of People's Republic of China</a>	NPC	Simplifies approval process for certain strains of crops, including potatoes and peanuts.	<b>Limited:</b> Represents a concrete revision to a law that directly impacts the agricultural sector, but neglects to make improvement to the approval process for major crops such as rice, corn, wheat, soybeans, and cotton.
11/9/15	<a href="#">Notice on Further Strengthening the Administration of Fees for Imports and Exports</a>	AQSIQ	Cancels a batch of import and export fees as unreasonable or illegal and forbids transfers of fee collection and other matters that fall within the scope of government responsibilities to public institutions or intermediary organizations.	<b>Limited:</b> Some potential impact for companies that have been subject to these fees in the past, but little impact on more central foreign company issues.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
11/30/15	<a href="#">Notice on Simplifying and Optimizing Procedures of Public Service to Facilitate the Affairs Handling and Entrepreneurship at the Grass Roots Level</a>	State Council	Sorts and publishes the catalogue of public service items; eliminates extraneous certifications and complicated procedures; simplifies procedures for administrative approvals; accelerates interagency information sharing and business coordination; and advances online transactions and consultation.	<b>Limited:</b> This notice lays out principles for simplifying a variety of registration procedures. It is likely aimed at supporting domestic companies, with a limited impact for small foreign companies.
12/11/15	<a href="#">Provisional Measures of On-site Inspections</a>	CBRC	Divides inspections conducted by CBRC into different types according to the situation; regulates the procedures for the approval of on-site inspection projects; enriches means and methods of inspections; and strengthens the handling of issues found during inspections and the use of inspection results.	<b>Limited:</b> Proposed measures would promote transparency in the execution of these inspections, but does not significantly affect foreign company market access or operations.
12/29/15	<a href="#">State Council Reply on the Overall Pilot Reform Plan of Implementing Separation of Business Certificate and License in Shanghai</a>	State Council	Allows companies in Pudong New Area to obtain business licenses before applying for administrative permits.	<b>Moderate:</b> Improvements to the administrative process for all companies establishing a new business, but limited to a single geographic area.

#### IV. Institutional Reforms

##### Reform-Related Agencies and Groups

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/31/13	<a href="#">Establishment of the Central Government Leading Group for Overall Reform</a>	State Council	Sets up a central leading group to comprehensively deepen reforms, determine the leading cadres selection regulation.	<b>Limited:</b> Signals the central government's intention to move forward with reforms introduced during the Third Plenum. To date, the impact is largely aspirational due to the limited implementation of major reforms assigned to the group.
1/22/14	<a href="#">Work Plan for Relevant Central Authorities to Implement the Important Initiatives of Third Plenum of the Eighteenth CCP Congress Decision</a>	State Council	Establishes six special teams under the central leading group for comprehensively deepening reform: economic and ecological civilization system reform special team, democracy and the rule of law sector reform special team, cultural reform special team, social reform special team, party construction reform special team, and discipline inspection system reform special team.	<b>Limited:</b> Sets key structures and personnel to push forward economic reforms introduced during the Third Plenum. While potential policy impact remains high, limited implementation of major reforms to date restricts this impact to moderate.
4/21/15	<a href="#">Notice on Establishing the State Council Coordination Group for Promoting Transformation of Government Functions</a>	State Council General Office	Announces the head (Zhang Gaoli) and other eight members of the State Council Coordinating Small Group for Promoting Functional Transformation, and also identifies six reform-focused sub-groups (such as one focused on administrative approval reform) and four functional sub-groups.	<b>Limited:</b> The reform group is set to tackle issues of importance to domestic and external reforms. The Small Group is likely to have a positive impact on improving inefficiencies in China's government functions over time, but much will depend on the group's decisions and implementation.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/1/15	<a href="#">Letter on Approving the Establishment of the Inter-ministerial Joint-conference Mechanism to Promote Investment</a>	State Council	Approves the establishment of a cross-ministerial mechanism to promote effective investment, establish government investment project reserves, draft a three-year rolling investment plan, and better coordinate investment policies among participating ministries.	<b>Limited:</b> This additional mechanism aims to increase the role of the government in allocating investment but offers limited implementation details. Additional policy coordination between investment policymakers may provide a more coherent national investment framework by 2018.

### Government Restructuring & Other Institutional Reforms

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
2/10/14	NDRC Plan for Establishing Rule of Law within the Agency	NDRC	Promotes NDRC's transformation over the next five years into a rule of law agency with "statutory limitations to power, standardized operations, openness and transparency, unity in power and accountability, integrity and high efficiency."	<b>Limited:</b> While the language is positive, the policy contains few concrete details of policy change and clear signs of implementation are still largely lacking.
2/5/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Promoting the Socialization of Environmental Monitoring Services</a>	MEP	Calls for increased societal participation in environmental monitoring of business activities.	<b>Limited:</b> Encouraging increased private participation in monitoring environmental issues, and reducing the role of MEP in the process is likely to have a positive impact on ability of foreign companies to provide services. It is not clear if participation includes foreign companies, but no specific language excluding them exists in the document.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/16/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Integrating Inspection and Certification Institutions under the National Quality Inspection System</a>	AQSIQ	Plans to divide existing quality inspection institutions into non-profit and for-profit entities, and lists administrative goals such as separating public service entities from administrative entities, regulators from operators, and transforming governmental entities into enterprises.	<b>Limited:</b> Reforming the customs inspection process and its relevant authorities are likely welcome reforms. These opinions do not contain implementing details and will require follow-up implementation plans in order to have meaningful impact on foreign companies.
4/12/15	<a href="#">Approval of the Reform Implementation Plan of China's Export-Import Bank</a>	State Council	Approves PBOC's reform implementation plan for China's Export-Import Bank, and calls for the plan to strengthen China Ex-Im Bank's policy positions, reasonably define its scope of operations, and to identify risk compensation mechanisms. The notice does not, however, include the full text of the plan.	<b>None:</b> Internal (and as-yet unpublished) governmental reform measure to provide more clarity on the role of China's Ex-Im Bank in international trade financing. No direct impact on foreign companies as this reform is to support reform of a bank that finances Chinese products being sold abroad.
4/12/15	<a href="#">Approval of the Reform Implementation Plan of China Development Bank</a>	State Council	Approves PBOC's reform implementation plan for China Development Bank, and calls for PBOC's reform plan to adhere to China Development Bank's position as a developmental financial institution, and to improve organizational structure and governance.	<b>None:</b> Internal (and as-yet unpublished) governmental reform measure to provide additional reform goals pertaining to PBOC's reform plan for China Development Bank. Likely no direct impact on foreign companies.
4/12/15	<a href="#">Approval of the Reform Implementation Plan for Agriculture Development Bank of China</a>	State Council	Approves PBOC's reform implementation plan for the Agriculture Development Bank of China, and calls for PBOC's reform plan to improve account management, accounting classification, and define its responsibilities and risk compensation mechanisms.	<b>None:</b> Internal (and as-yet unpublished) governmental reform measure to provide additional reform goals pertaining to PBOC's reform plan for Agriculture Development Bank of China. Likely no direct impact on foreign companies.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/20/15	<a href="#">Letter on the Agreement to Establish a Interagency Joint Conference on Promoting Public Entrepreneurship and Innovation</a>	State Council	Establishes a interagency dialogue and study mechanism to plan and coordinate work related to public entrepreneurship and innovation, including the study of major issues and joint implementation; the group will be headed by NDRC Chair Xu Shaoshi.	<b>None:</b> Establishes a new internal government group, versus representing any near-term policy change. Additionally, the group's focus is likely more domestic than foreign.
10/27/15	<a href="#">Notice on Cutting Ties to Industry Associations and Chambers of Commerce by Reforming the Methods of Financial Support</a>	MOF	Sets a timeline for cutting government support for industry associations and chambers of commerce, granting such groups 100 percent of their basic budget in 2015, 80 percent in 2016 and 2017, and none thereafter.	<b>None:</b> While this move could make industry associations more competitive and more member driven, this will not have any near-term impact for foreign companies.

## Other

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
6/17/14	<a href="#">Notice on Strengthening Efforts in Trade Policy Compliance</a>	State Council	Directs all government agencies that set or influence policy on IPR or trade in goods and services – including central and local government agencies – to comply with China's WTO commitments. States that MOFCOM is responsible for receiving all future compliance opinions from WTO and directing them to relevant Chinese government organs for compliance measures.	<b>Moderate:</b> While MOFCOM has had the ability to review policies for WTO compliance since 2001, these procedures would set a much clearer mechanism for MOFCOM to do so, giving them greater internal leverage to push back and influence policy. However, the notice does not make any practical changes in terms of implementation – and it is important to note the challenges MOFCOM will continue to face in interagency disputes.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
10/23/14	<a href="#">Notice on Reforming and Adjusting the Work System for the Inspection of Environmental Protection Performance of Publicly Traded Companies</a>	MEP	Removes MEP's responsibility for conducting environmental protection inspections of publicly traded companies.	<b>Limited:</b> While the policy does address some complaints about MEP's investigation system, including local protectionism, excessively long investigation periods, and rent seeking, this notice addresses more of a process set of issues. However, the policy's reference to publicly traded companies likely refers to those traded on Chinese exchanges, which would largely limit inclusion of foreign companies.
3/23/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Promoting an "Authority List" for Local Government Working Departments</a>	CCP Central Committee, State Council Information Office	Requires local governments to accept public supervision and publicize their administrative powers and responsibilities in catalogues, along with the legal basis for all of their administrative powers. Provincial governments are to complete their reports by the end of 2015, and city and county-level authorities are to complete their reports by the end of 2016.	<b>Moderate:</b> Positive move towards transparency at all levels of government, and falls in line with a recent trend of unifying tax incentives and removing administrative barriers on companies' autonomy to make investment decisions. Several provinces, including Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Hebei, and Hubei, have already begun issuing power lists, as well as nearly all ministries under the State Council.

## V. Role of the State and the Market

### SOE Reform

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/6/13	Notice on Improving the Operating Budget for State-Owned Assets	CSRC	Requires SOEs to provide a portion of revenues collected to the state.	<b>Limited:</b> Promotes SOE reforms, particularly related to profits and revenues, but does not change the role of SOEs in the economy.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/18/13	<a href="#">Opinions on Further Deepening the Reform of Shanghai State-owned Assets and Promoting the Development of Enterprises</a>	Shanghai Municipal Government	Introduces 20 reform measures designed to accelerate SOE structural adjustments, standardize corporate governance structures, improve personnel selection and incentive mechanisms, improve SOE international competitiveness, and optimize SOE supervision.	<b>Limited:</b> Promotes needed reforms for SOEs to push them towards operating based on market factors, but scope remains limited only to Shanghai-controlled SOEs.
1/20/14	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Strengthening Value Management of Central State-owned Enterprises with Focus on Evaluation of Economic Value Added (EVA)</a>	SASAC	Calls for SOEs to focus on improving efficiency and use EVA as a key performance indicator.	<b>None:</b> While this represents a step towards holding SOEs more accountable for their performance, it does not fundamentally alter the competitive dynamics that impact foreign companies.
8/29/14	<a href="#">Proposal for Reform of the Compensation for Leaders of Central Government-Managed Businesses</a>	CCP Politburo	Proposes four reforms for SOE leadership compensation, including determining appropriate levels of compensation for SOE leadership. Expected to reduce compensation by at least 50 percent for high-level executives.	<b>None:</b> One of four party-reform announcements released at CCP Politburo meeting. Though it has no direct impact on foreign companies or market access issues, it remains a positive step in systemic reform.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/29/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Rationally and Strictly Standardizing SOE Leadership Compensation and Expenditures</a>	CCP Politburo	Calls for creating a rational standard for SOE leadership compensation and expenditures, and removes authority for SOE leadership to determine salaries.	<b>None:</b> One of four party-reform announcements released at CCP Politburo meeting. Limiting SOE leadership compensation has no direct impact on foreign companies or market access issues.
5/25/15	<a href="#">Work Plan on Instructing and Supervising the Work of Local Departments in 2015</a>	SASAC	Promotes deepening local SOE reform. Measures to be taken include launching a pilot Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) in mixed ownership enterprises, drafting guiding opinions on establishing a professional managers system, and preventing the loss of state assets.	<b>None:</b> Although a potential ESOP might increase corporate governance at mixed ownership SOEs, no details, timelines, or implementation measures were provided.
6/2/15	<a href="#">Notice on Further Improving the Work of Increasing the Income and Reducing the Expenses for Central Enterprises</a>	SASAC	Issues nine measures to increase SOE revenue and reduce expenses such as travel, meetings, and receptions; stipulates that overall salary expenses will be linked to profits, meaning that a decrease in profits should result in a decrease to overall salary expenses.	<b>Limited:</b> The notice impacts only SOEs, and has no immediate or direct impact on FIEs. Indirectly, however, linking SOE pay to profits is likely to enhance the overall labor market, including for FIEs, in terms of human resources recruitment and retention.
9/13/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Deepening Reforms of State-owned Enterprises</a>	CCP Central Committee, State Council	Aim to address SOE inefficiencies and management by limiting government intervention in SOE operation, promoting anti-corruption efforts, promoting private investment in the state-owned sector, improving SOEs' market responsiveness, and separating management from ownership. The policy also classifies SOEs into two categories: "business SOEs" and "public service SOEs."	<b>Limited:</b> The policy lays out reform goals that generally do not tackle core SOE issues important to foreign competitors, such as their competitiveness as market players or interaction with private capital and companies. Additionally, reforms also contain few implementation details.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/24/15	<a href="#">Opinions on State-owned Enterprises (SOEs) Developing Mixed Ownership Economy</a>	State Council	Requires SOEs in sufficiently competitive industries to actively take in other state-owned and private capital, and also welcomes foreign capital in restructuring through overseas mergers and acquisitions, cooperation in investment and financing, offshore financing, and other methods. Additionally, sets specific guidelines governing opportunities for private capital in specific industries, including oil and gas pipelines, power grids, nuclear power, and national defense.	<b>Limited:</b> Creates more opportunities for private capital and foreign capital in key industries, but still only in a controlled setting that does not address core SOE issues such as requiring SOEs to operate as market competitors and fully opening key sectors to true foreign company competition.
11/4/15	<a href="#">Several Opinions on Reforming and Perfecting the State-owned Assets Management System</a>	State Council	Requires state-owned asset supervision and administrative agencies to adjust their functions to reform the authorization and management system for state-owned capital, clarify the relationships between the agencies and companies and between separate companies, and conduct pilot programs for the government to push state-owned capital investing firms to act as investors.	<b>None:</b> Structural reform for SASAC and its functions that will have little practical impact on SOE operation, much less how foreign companies compete with SOEs in the market.
11/10/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Strengthening and Improving the Supervision of Enterprises' State-owned Assets to Prevent their Loss</a>	State Council	Improves supervision of SOEs' key departments and subsidiaries in areas of finance, procurement, marketing, and investment; enhances supervision of SOE boards of directors; requires the establishment of an audit committee of outside directors; and reinforces boards of supervisors with other outside supervision efforts.	<b>Limited:</b> The policy focus on SOE governance, with limited direct impact on core SOE issues important to foreign competitors such as their SOE competitiveness as market players or interaction with private capital and companies. Additionally, reforms also contain few implementation details.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/29/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on SOE Function, Definition, and Classification</a>	MOF, NDRC, and SASAC	Seeks to define the functions and classification of commercial and public interest SOEs. Divides SOEs into either commercial or public interest SOEs, and lays out goals for enterprises within each category.	<u>None</u> : The plan does not state which SOEs or sectors fall into either category, and the impact of the policy on foreign investment remains unclear.

### Private Capital

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/19/13	<a href="#">Opinions on Reforming the Railway Investment and Financing System and Accelerating Railway Construction</a>	State Council	Opens ownership and management rights of intercity rail, city (suburban) railway, resource development railway and railway branches to local government and social capital, and encourages social capital to invest in railway construction.	<u>None</u> : Encourages the use of private capital in railway construction – but private capital does not likely include foreign investment.
9/26/13	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Government Procurement of Services from Social Organizations</a>	State Council	Allows further market access in the public services sector for eligible social organizations and enterprises.	<u>Limited</u> : Promotes the establishment of a services procurement system that will include public participation, but does not clarify if this includes foreign companies.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/31/13	<a href="#">Opinions on Accelerating the Operations of Medical Institutions with Social Capital</a>	NHFPC	Incorporates the operations of medical institutions with social capital into the planning of the health services system in the coming five years, and require local jurisdictions to develop reasonable policies for non-large-scale medical devices and equal treatment between private and public hospitals.	<u>Limited</u> : Promotes the establishment of private hospitals, but does not clarify access for foreign companies.
2/13/14	<a href="#">Regulatory Measures on the Equal Opening of Oil and Gas Pipeline Facilities (Trial)</a>	NEA	Requires government agencies to regulate oil and gas pipeline facilities fairly, openly, and transparently, and opens investment to the private sector.	<u>Limited</u> : Allows private capital investment in an area dominated by state capital – but private capital is unlikely to include foreign investment.
4/23/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Establishing the Long-term Mechanism of Natural Gas Supply</a>	State Council	Increases natural gas supply to as much as 420 billion cubic meters per year by 2020, and opens energy market to private capital.	<u>None</u> : Opens investment in the energy market to more private capital – but private capital in this context does not likely include foreign investment.
5/18/14	<a href="#">Notice on Encouraging Social Capital in Infrastructure and Other Projects (First Batch)</a>	NDRC	Lists 80 specific projects in infrastructure and other areas where private investment is encouraged.	<u>Limited</u> : Allows private participation in select infrastructure projects, but scope is limited and unclear if it will allow foreign participation.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/14/14	<a href="#">Notice on Issues Concerning Overseas Financing for Special Purpose Investment Vehicles (SPVs) Set Up by Chinese Residents, and Return Investment Foreign Currency Exchange</a>	SAFE	Defines the scope of special-purpose vehicles (SPVs) foreign exchange transactions administered by SAFE, and expands financing channels by allowing domestic companies to acquire foreign currency for SPV investment. Improves the process for Chinese residents' overseas financing activities and cross-border capital transactions.	<u>None</u> : Measures are aimed only at Chinese companies and individuals.
9/12/14	<a href="#">Notice on Accelerating the Construction of Projects for Healthcare and Elder Care Services</a>	NDRC, MCA, MOF, MLR, MOHURD, NHFPC, PBC, SAT, GAS, CBRC	Requires upgrading of medical treatment and elder care capabilities, including a new requirement that 25 percent of available hospital beds must be in private hospitals by 2020. The policy also sets targets of having 4.97 hospital beds per 1,000 people by 2015, and 6 hospital beds per 1,000 people by 2020.	<u>Limited</u> : Potentially important development for foreign companies involved in healthcare services, including potential future access to public funds. Follow-up notices include more specifics to clarify the more general goals in this notice.
11/26/14	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Innovating Financing Mechanisms and Encouraging Social Investment in Key Sectors</a>	State Council	Lays out public service projects in fields such as infrastructure, transportation, environmental protection, and ecological construction that should seek private capital for funding and undertaking.	<u>None</u> : Potentially positive move to decentralize the government's role in supplying all social services and thus allow private participation. "Private capital," however, likely does not include foreign capital.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/2/14	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Carrying Out Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)</a>	NDRC	Outlines the scope, goals, and reporting mechanisms for implementing the State Council's public-private partnerships for basic government services and infrastructure.	<b>Limited:</b> Further transparency and private participation in providing services, but the direct impact on foreign participation in such programs is yet to be seen and details remain vague. Likely indirect impact for foreign suppliers of inputs for projects being undertaken under the PPP umbrella.
12/25/14	<a href="#">Announcement on Opening the Broadband Access Market to Private Capital</a>	MIIT	Encourages private capital to invest in wireline broadband access services in several designated pilot zones.	<b>None:</b> It is encouraging to see the gradual liberalization of the traditionally entrenched telecom services market, but "private capital" does not likely include foreign investment.
1/12/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Encouraging Private Capital to Invest in Hydropower Stations</a>	NEA	Outlines the processes and goals for new energy development in China. These opinions focus on the private market playing an important role in the development of hydropower stations as a means of developing clean energy.	<b>Limited:</b> Allows private capital investment in an area dominated by state capital – but openings for private capital are unlikely to be extended to foreign investment, based on other statements about private versus foreign capital.
2/25/15	<a href="#">Implementing Opinions on Encouraging the Participation of Private Capital in the Development of Elder Care Services</a>	MCA, MHRSS, NDRC, MOE, MOF, NHFPC, MLR, CBRC, CIRC, MOHURD	Encourages private capital to participate in developing the elder care market by recommending preferential tax policies, utilizing public-private partnerships, and developing educational programs targeted at improving the talent pool.	<b>None:</b> The opinions lack implementing details, and only apply to a small scope of businesses. Although some provincial and local governments have sought to privatize elder care facilities – such as Beijing's August 2015 move to privatize 215 nursing homes – neither the opinions nor the follow-up actions provide clear indications that foreign capital is a component of private capital.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/17/15	<a href="#">Notice on Promoting the Support of Development Financing for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)</a>	NDRC, China Development Bank	Encourages adopting various financial tools to provide funding support for PPP projects. Instructs China Development Bank to provide preferential policies for PPP projects, such as giving priority to PPP financing needs, and setting up green channels to expedite the loan approval process.	<u>Limited:</u> Encouraging private capital in infrastructure building through public-private partnerships is not necessarily a new concept. It is not yet clear whether foreign companies will be active participants in PPPs.
3/30/15	<a href="#">Implementing Opinions for Encouraging and Instructing Social Capital to Participate in the Construction of Major Water Conservancy Projects</a>	MOF, NDRC, Ministry of Water Resources	Encourages social capital, including SOEs, private enterprises, and foreign-invested enterprises, to participate in major water conservancy projects. Preferential and supporting measures for social capital investment are also addressed, for instance, financial subsidies, market-driven price mechanisms, policy-based finance, and preferential tax policies.	<u>Limited:</u> Encouraging foreign capital in infrastructure building through public-private partnerships could provide openings. Immediate impact of this policy is limited in scope and detail, however.
4/9/15	<a href="#">Guidelines for Issuing Bonds in the Elder Care Industry</a>	NDRC	Encourages companies to finance debt for investment in the elder care industry by issuing bonds, and calls for increased efficiency in NDRC approval of company applications to issue debt.	<u>Limited:</u> Easing debt issuance policies would help investment in this industry but impact is limited to this sector.
4/9/15	<a href="#">Guidelines for Issuing Bonds for the Construction of Urban Parking Lots</a>	NDRC	Encourages companies to finance debt for investment in urban parking lot construction by issuing bonds, and calls for increased efficiency in NDRC approval of company applications to issue debt.	<u>Limited:</u> Easing debt issuance policies would help investment in this industry but impact is primarily limited to this sector. Some potential direct impact for foreign company suppliers to the construction industry.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
4/9/15	<a href="#">Guidelines for Issuing Bonds for Urban Underground Pipeline Networks</a>	NDRC	Encourages companies to finance debt for investment in underground pipeline construction projects by issuing bonds, and calls for increased efficiency in NDRC approval of company applications to issue debt.	<b>Limited:</b> Easing debt issuance policies would help investment in this sector, but impact is limited to this sector. Some potential direct impact for foreign company suppliers to the construction industry.
4/9/15	<a href="#">Implementing Opinions on Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution</a>	MOF, MEP	Encourages social capital to participate and invest in PPP projects related to the prevention and control of water pollution. The opinions instruct local governments to create preferential policies for PPP projects, such as providing funding support, and other financial incentives and subsidies.	<b>Limited:</b> The opinions set high-level goals for promoting improvement in critical infrastructure projects such as water pollution. These opinions do not explicitly address foreign company participation in PPP projects, so direct impact on foreign company access to quasi-government projects is limited at this time.
4/24/15	<a href="#">Administrative Measures for the Franchising of Infrastructure and Public Utilities</a>	NDRC, MOF, MOHURD, MOT, MWR, PBOC	Encourages social capital to invest in franchising projects involving energy, water conservancy, environmental protection, municipal engineering, and other infrastructure and public utilities. The measures aim to improve the quality and efficiency of public services, as well as enhancing cooperation between government and social capital organizations. One goal is to streamline the process for public-private partnerships (PPP).	<b>Limited:</b> Broad agreement from several key ministries involved in the implementation of PPP projects in China. Previously, many individual ministries released their own specific PPP regulatory documents, which created confusion, but these administrative measures could potentially streamline processes and improve implementation of PPP projects. Foreign entities with Chinese legal person status (such as Chinese subsidiaries of foreign companies) are allowed to participate in these projects.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
5/22/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Promoting Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in Public Services</a>	State Council	Encourages the adoption of PPP projects in 13 areas including energy, water, environmental protection, agriculture, forestry, affordable housing, medical treatment, healthcare, and retirement.	<b>None:</b> No new or more specific details on PPP are listed in these guiding opinions. Mainly serves to send a signal to local governments and government ministries to promote PPP. The opinions do not address simplifying the project approval process or improving financial support policies.
5/22/15	<a href="#">Notice on Applying the Public-private Partnership Mode to Promote the Public Rental Housing Investment, Construction, and Operation</a>	MOF, MLR, MOHURD, PBOC, SAT, CBRC	Demonstrates the-conditions for PPPs in public rental housing, including the application scope – and supporting policies such as fiscal policies, tax and surcharge policies, land policies, acquisition policies and financing policies.	<b>None:</b> Applies only to PPPs for public housing, an industry with few foreign investors.
6/15/15	<a href="#">Measures on Accelerating the Development of Nonpublic Medical Institutions</a>	State Council	Encourages social capital to invest in and establish medical institutions. Promotes measures to facilitate social capital investment, including lowering the thresholds for market access, widening investing and financing channels, and providing preferential tax policies.	<b>None:</b> Scope of reform limited to medical institutions, which are domestic Chinese companies. Depth of reform unclear, as the measures lack specific implementation guidelines. The measures will likely have no impact on foreign companies.
6/26/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions of the China Banking Regulatory Commission on Promoting the Development of Private Banks</a>	State Council	Encourages private capital to invest in the banking industry. Private enterprises that meet specified conditions are encouraged to set up banks – and private banks are encouraged to create innovative products, services, management, and technologies.	<b>Limited:</b> The opinions lack specific implementing details or timelines. If follow-up regulations do treat foreign capital the same as private Chinese and state-owned capital in setting up banks, the opinions will have greater significance.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/7/15	<a href="#">Announcement on Bidding Projects for Oil and Gas Exploration Blocks in Xinjiang (2015)</a>	MLR	Opens bidding for six blocks of land in Xinjiang for three-year exploration rights to domestically registered companies with more than RMB 1 billion (\$162 million) in assets. Requires the bidding company's main shareholder or actual controller to be a Chinese citizen or state asset management department. Allows joint ventures with foreign capital to participate in bidding.	<b>Limited:</b> This policy loosens China's state monopoly over upstream oil and gas exploration by inviting private investors to participate in competitive bidding of land blocks. Though a welcome opening for private capital, foreign firms can only participate through a joint venture, limiting the opportunities for foreign companies.
7/23/15	<a href="#">Notice on Matters Concerning Crude Oil Processing Firms Applying for Non-state-trade Import Qualification</a>	MOFCOM	Allows privately-owned refineries to import crude oil as long as they have an annual refining capacity of over 2 million tons, storage capacity for no less than 300,000 tons of crude oil, and terminals that can handle more than 50,000 tons.	<b>Limited:</b> This notice opens up a heavily-monopolized sector to private capital. This move will increase competition within the sector, and should promote greater reform in the industry.
10/19/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Implementing the Market Access Negative List System</a>	State Council	Establishes a clear roadmap to implement a negative list for market access by 2018, starting with pilot projects in late 2015. The system includes two lists of investment restrictions: a general market access negative list applicable to both foreign and domestic companies, and a second, foreign investment-only list of market access restrictions.	<b>Significant:</b> Creates a clear, time-limited roadmap for implementing a negative list approach to investment management nationwide, with concrete timelines for initial steps.

Other

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
4/22/15	<a href="#">Notice on Financial Support Policies for the Promotion and Application of New Energy Vehicles (NEVs) from 2016-2020</a>	MOF, NDRC, MOST, MIIT	Extends promotional policies that favor NEVs (originally introduced in 2014 by the State Council) through 2020. The policies and subsidies are only available to consumer purchases of NEVs listed in a government NEV promotion catalogue.	<b>None:</b> A February 2015 NEV catalogue for cars qualifying for subsidies includes 18 car brands, but among those 18 brands, none are foreign company brands. Foreign companies are shut out from being included in the subsidies offered.
7/10/15	<a href="#">Notice on Launching Pilot Work on a National Electronic Tendering and Bidding Platform</a>	NDRC, MIIT, MOHURD, MOT, MWR, & MOFCOM	Creates a standardized electronic tendering and bidding system that will be piloted in Shenzhen and Kunming, and later expanded to five other provinces and two cities.	<b>Limited:</b> An electronic bidding system will likely result in more transparent and improved supervision over the tendering and bidding process, which is a positive outcome for companies. But the narrow geographic scope results in the notice being of limited significance.
8/5/15	<a href="#">Notice on Promoting Random Inspections to Standardize Mid- and Post-Event Supervision</a>	State Council	Promotes random inspections of items that have a legal, regulatory, or policy basis for being inspected, and calls for items without a legal, regulatory, or policy basis not to be inspected. Calls for establishing a "double random" inspection system, in which a mechanism randomly selects both an individual market entity for inspection as well as an enforcement officer to carry out the inspection.	<b>Limited:</b> The notice carries out the transition of pre-approval to mid- and post-event supervision, meaning relevant government departments will carry out random inspections of market entities to ensure they are in legal and regulatory compliance as well as correcting behaviors of market entities when they have violated regulations. Random inspections may help limit official abuse of inspection systems, but is unlikely to result in deep change.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/28/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Promoting the Modernization of Domestic Trade Circulation and the Construction of a Law-based Business Environment</a>	State Council	Sets a goal of promoting an open, competitive, and efficient system for domestic trade by 2020; prohibits regional barriers, abuses of administrative power to restrict or exclude competition, and abuse of a dominant market position to set unreasonable fees or trading conditions. Specific goals include regional integration, better use of advanced technology and e-commerce tools, and trade financing.	<u>Limited:</u> Includes positive goals to promote more integrated trade markets and promote the role of the market versus the state, but the policy focuses more on general goals versus concrete steps to be implemented in the near term.
12/17/15	<a href="#">Notice on Implementing the Policy on Substituting Subsidies with Awards for Public Private Partnership Projects</a>	MOF	Supports standardized operation of PPP projects by substituting subsidies with awards.	<u>Limited:</u> While this policy improves the funding process related to PPP projects, it does nothing to create more openings for foreign firms.
12/1/15	<a href="#">Opinion on Further Pushing Forward the Development of State Farms</a>	State Council	Aims to create internationally-competitive, modern agricultural groups with robust and efficient mechanisms; establish a batch of large-scale grain, cotton, sugar, natural rubber, dairy, poultry, seed, and oil bases; and significantly raise the income and standard of living for state farm employees by the year 2020. The opinions propose 12 measures for state farms and four measures for local governments, including increasingly managing state farms as corporations, separating social responsibilities from operational responsibilities, and gradually transitioning to contract employees.	<u>Limited:</u> While bringing state-run companies in line with market principles is a positive step in allowing the market to play a role in the allocation of resources and may improve partnerships of foreign firms operating in this space, the opinion does not create market openings for foreign agricultural firms.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/30/15	<a href="#">National Standardization System Construction and Development Plan (2015-2020)</a>	State Council	The first five-year plan China has issued specifically for standardization. It covers standards for multiple sectors, including agriculture; industry (energy, consumer products, electrical devices, ICT, new energy, biotech); service industry (transportation, financial, tourism); social policies (urbanization, public security, etc.); ecology; among others, and calls for enhancing enterprise and association standards.	Moderate: The plan signals a positive intention to reform standards across a broad range of industries and sectors, and is China's first five-year plan specifically devoted to standards development. However, because of broad language and lack of specifics, the impact remains aspirational.

## VI. Financial Reforms

### Banking/Interest Rates

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
6/27/14	<a href="#">Revised Rules on the Handling of Whistle-blowing of Illegal Pricing Behavior</a>	PBOC Shanghai Branch	Expands a pilot program on foreign currency deposit rates previously confined to the Shanghai FTZ to all of Shanghai. The announcement allows banks based in Shanghai to put foreign currency deposit rates for accounts (less than \$3 million) in line with market conditions.	Limited: Although this may not have direct impact on foreign companies due to restrictions on foreign-invested banks, it represents an important first step of expanding a Shanghai FTZ pilot program to a larger scale. The policy could be significant if used as a measure to continue the expansion of more liberalized financial policies more broadly.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/24/14	<a href="#">Notice on Improving and Innovating Loans to Small and Micro-Sized Enterprises to Improve the Financial Services to Small and Micro-Sized Enterprises</a>	CBRC	Promotes the development of small companies in China by improving access to financing, reducing their debt financing costs, and promoting favorable terms for loans to small companies to improve liquidity.	<b>Limited:</b> Promoting domestic growth of small firms may create market opportunities, but it does not address the main market access and regulatory concerns of the financial sector. The notice also contains few policy details.
7/25/14	CBRC Approvals to create Qianhai Weizhong Bank, Wenzhou Private Bank, and Tianjin Jincheng Private Bank	CBRC	Approves the establishment of three private banks, designating Tencent, Zhengtai Group, and Tianjin Huabei Group as the largest shareholders in their respective banks. These institutions are some of the first banks run by non-finance companies in China.	<b>Limited:</b> A positive step towards creating greater openings for private capital in the banking industry. The significance of a non-finance Internet company being awarded approval for operating a bank shows true potential for private companies to participate in the industry. However, private capital thus far has only included Chinese capital, raising questions as to whether foreign companies will be allowed to participate in these openings.
9/26/14	<a href="#">CBRC Approvals to create Shanghai Huarui Private Bank, and Zhejiang Web Commercial Bank</a>	CBRC	Approves the establishment of private banks, designating Shanghai Junyao Group and Alibaba's subsidiary Zhejiang Ant Micro-financing Services Group as the largest shareholders in their respective banks. These institutions are some of the first banks run by non-finance companies in China.	<b>Limited:</b> A positive step towards creating greater openings for private capital in the banking industry. The significance of a non-finance Internet company being awarded approval for operating a bank shows true potential for private companies to participate in the industry. However, private capital thus far has only included Chinese capital, raising questions as to whether foreign companies will be allowed to participate in these openings.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
2/12/15	<a href="#">Notice on Issues Concerning the Scope of Medium and Long-Term Foreign Debt for Foreign Banks in China in 2015</a>	NDRC	Allows foreign banks to apply to increase their foreign debt holdings as part of broader regulation of the amount of foreign debt that foreign banks can hold in 2015.	<b>Limited:</b> Allowing FIE banks to apply to increase their holdings of foreign debt is likely a welcome liberalization, but still represents just a slight opening in an industry with significant government controls.
2/12/15	<a href="#">Notice on Administration of Special RMB Accounts Foreign Exchange Settlement and Sales by Foreign Banks</a>	SAFE	Specifies that a foreign bank that has opened an RMB services account and an RMB foreign exchange account can freely transfer RMB funds between these two accounts.	<b>Limited:</b> Allows companies more control over their transfer of capital, but represents a limited process improvement.
3/12/15	<a href="#">Guidelines on Risk Management for Commercial Bank Merger and Acquisition (M&amp;A) Loans</a>	CIRC	Revises existing M&A loan guidelines in certain areas, such as extending the maximum term of an M&A loan from 5 years to 7 years, and increasing the maximum amount of a loan in relation to the total acquisition price from 50 percent to 60 percent.	<b>Limited:</b> Allows commercial banks greater space to finance M&A transactions, which could include foreign-related transactions in China, but does not address larger issues of foreign bank participation in the banking sector.
3/31/15	<a href="#">Regulations on Deposit Insurance</a>	State Council	Requires all financial institutions within China that collect deposits to pay insurance premiums into a fund that will be managed by an agency of the State Council. This agency shall pay back to depositors their insured amount within seven days if the financial institution enters into bankruptcy procedures, or is approved to apply for bankruptcy. Maximum insurance	<b>Moderate:</b> Increases consumer confidence in the banking system, and is a positive step toward eliminating controls on interest rates. Limited impact on top issues facing foreign companies in the banking sector; foreign banks in China are not covered by the deposit insurance provisions.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
			compensation per account is RMB 500,000 (\$79,806).	
6/16/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovation</a>	State Council	Calls for removing investment restrictions on foreign invested venture funds, and improving the supervision system over foreign-invested investment groups. Separately, the opinion supports the development of Internet finance and crowdfunding financing platforms.	<b>Limited:</b> The opinions have no implementation details regarding how or when investment restrictions for foreign capital are to be removed. Additionally, several sectors—including Internet finance and crowdfunding—are not fully open to foreign investment. Therefore, impact on foreign companies is limited.
7/14/15	<a href="#">Notice about Matters Concerning the Use of RMB to Invest in the Interbank Market by Foreign Central Banks, International Financial Organizations and Sovereign Wealth Funds</a>	PBOC	Removes pre-approvals for foreign central banks, sovereign wealth funds, and global financial organizations to trade bonds, handle interest-rate swaps, and conduct repurchase agreements. Removes the requirement to apply to receive quotas from the central bank to invest in the debt market; institutions only need to register with PBOC before they invest.	<b>Moderate:</b> These new rules make it easier for large international investors to access China's interbank bond market, and mark a step toward opening China's capital markets, making the RMB an international currency, and general financial sector liberalization.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/31/15	<a href="#">Supplemental Notice on Providing Credit and Loan Support to Imports of State-Encouraged Products</a>	MOFCOM, NDRC, MOF & CBRC	Allows the Export-Import Bank of China to offer preferred credit rates to imports of advanced technologies, key equipment and parts, and scarce resource products listed in the 2015 Catalogue of Encouraged Technologies and Products for Import.	<u>Limited:</u> Policy as written could allow preferential loan support to both foreign and domestic companies that are importing key technologies and equipment, though it remains unclear whether foreign companies could realistically take advantage of this benefit.
9/22/15	<a href="#">Provisional Administrative Measures for the Liquidity Risk of Commercial Banks</a>	CBRC	Regulates how CBRC manages commercial banks' liquidity risk, including removing requirements that a bank's loan-to-deposit ratio be 75 percent or less and clarifying the method of using the loan-to-deposit ratio as the liquidity risk monitoring index.	<u>Limited:</u> Slight operational impact for commercial banks, but no impact on top issues for foreign companies either within or outside of the sector.
10/23/15	<a href="#">PBOC removes deposit rate ceiling to promote interest rate liberalization</a>	PBOC	Removes the deposit interest rate ceiling for banks. Prior to the announcement, banks operating in China could only float their interest rates within a certain range of the benchmark set by the PBOC. Previous rate cuts had been coupled with moves to broaden this upper limit.	<u>Limited:</u> Is a tangible step toward financial system reform, but has limited direct impacts on foreign company operations.

### Exchange Rate/Foreign Exchange

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/28/13	<a href="#">Administrative Measures on the Issuance of Subordinated Debts by Insurance Companies</a>	CIRC	Allows insurance groups to issue subordinated debts, where in the past only licensed subsidiaries could issue such bonds.	<u>Limited</u> : Permits insurance groups to issue debt to broaden financing options, but sector impact quite limited.
4/15/13	<a href="#">Administrative Measures on Insurance Company Mergers and Acquisitions</a>	CIRC	Allows insurance companies and individual shareholders that meet conditions to own stakes in more than one other insurance company in the same market and allows insurers to use borrowed capital for up to 50 percent of the transaction price.	<u>Limited</u> : Allows foreign and domestic insurance companies to hold up to 50 percent in up to two competitors in the same product market (i.e., life insurance, property and casualty insurance, reinsurance). However, impact limited to this sector, and does not address core market access issues.
4/24/13	<a href="#">Notice on Regulating the Limited Partnership Equity Investment Enterprises to Invest in Insurance Companies</a>	CIRC	Permits qualified domestic and foreign limited partnership firms to invest in insurance companies, marking an initiative of CIRC to encourage and support private capital investment in the insurance industry.	<u>None</u> : Creates more openings for private capital in the insurance market, but private capital in this case does not likely include foreign companies.
5/2/13	<a href="#">Administration Measures for Telephone Sales of Life Insurance</a>	CSRC	Provides rules for companies selling life insurance over the phone to protect consumers.	<u>Limited</u> : Minimal impact for companies focused on one small aspect of a particular industry.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/5/13	<a href="#">Notice on Simplifying Cross-Border RMB Business Processes and Improving Relevant Policies</a>	PBOC	Allows domestic and qualified foreign banks to offer a broader range of RMB clearing and other RMB-denominated services. Also permits domestic banks to offer RMB-denominated loans to domestic and foreign holding companies to qualified offshore entities.	<b>Limited:</b> Expands the market space for foreign banks to offer RMB-denominated services slightly and provides additional financing room for qualified foreign companies in China. However, these improvements are carefully controlled – and the most significant benefits are limited to one sector.
8/27/13	<a href="#">Guidance on Insurance Industry's Support of Economic Restructuring, Transformation and Upgrading</a>	CIRC	Encourages the use of private capital to establish insurance agencies, brokerages, and assessment institutions, along with participation in the rural insurance market.	<b>None:</b> Encourages the use of private capital in insurance – but private capital does not likely include foreign investment.
1/24/14	<a href="#">Notice on Further Improving and Adjusting the Foreign Exchange Control Policy for Capital Accounts</a>	SAFE	Reforms foreign exchange management under companies' capital accounts, simplifies the process of administrative approvals, and facilitates trade and investment.	
2/20/14	<a href="#">Notice on Improving Regulation on the Proportional Use of Insurance Funds</a>	CIRC	Raises the maximum share of total assets that insurers can invest in shares and private equity to 30 percent, up from 25 percent under previous rules.	<b>Limited:</b> Changes will have a limited direct impact on the insurance industry.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
2/26/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Establishing a Unified Basic Pension Insurance System for Urban and Rural Residents</a>	State Council	Establishes a unified urban and rural pension insurance fund consists of contributions by individuals, collective benefits, and government subsidies.	<b>None:</b> Changes focus on areas of the insurance industry that are entirely government-run, and companies are not included among contributors.
4/4/14	<a href="#">Administrative Measures on Insurance Company Mergers and Acquisitions</a>	CIRC	Improves the structure of the insurance industry and enhances its competitiveness, while increasing the variety of risk-handling instruments.	<b>Limited:</b> Will have some impact on foreign companies in the insurance industry, but no impact on others.
4/25/14	<a href="#">Trial Measures on Management of the Foreign Exchange Funds of Multinational Companies</a>	SAFE	Allows multinational companies to open overseas and domestic accounts simultaneously as well as conduct collection and settlement of accounts in foreign exchange.	<b>Moderate:</b> Allows MNCs more flexibility in using foreign exchange; a revised version of these regulations was released in September 2015 with further changes to increase flexibility.
4/28/14	<a href="#">Amendment to the Measures on Insurance Company Equity Management</a>	CIRC	States that insurance companies must fund additional equity investment from their own funds, and not from bank loans; aims to further open the insurance industry to the private capital while controlling systematic risk, especially risk linked to the banking sector.	<b>None:</b> Provides openings for private capital in the insurance industry – but private capital does not likely include foreign investment.
4/30/14	<a href="#">Provisions on Cross-Border Foreign Currency Flows</a>	SAFE, GAC	Promotes the development of the foreign currency cash management business. Simplifies the management process and delegates administrative approvals to local SAFE branches and allows approved institutions to conduct foreign currency business.	<b>Limited:</b> Simplifies internal procedures related to foreign currency cash management; decentralizes approval to local agencies; and creates some opportunities for domestic and foreign companies in this sector.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
5/19/14	<a href="#">Administrative Provisions for the Cross-Border Foreign Exchange Guarantee</a>	SAFE	Simplifies the cross-border guarantees for foreign exchange by cancelling a number of administrative approval requirements.	<b>Limited:</b> Incremental step deregulating cross-border foreign exchange guarantees that should reduce regulation of cross-border guarantees by simplifying administrative checkpoints.
6/11/14	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Implementing the State Council's Opinions on Supporting the Stable Growth of Foreign Trade</a>	PBOC	Provides government entities with instruction on how to support foreign trade growth, including supportive policies, efforts to promote credit, leasing and financing channels for foreign trade; improving cross-border RMB use by simplifying settlement procedures and launching new funds; and improving RMB exchange rate mechanisms.	<b>Limited:</b> Addresses some important issues related to foreign trade and RMB settlement across industries, but provides few details that would allow foreign companies to participate – and some language (such as "providing services for companies that go abroad") implies a domestic focus.
6/22/14	<a href="#">Administrative Measures for Foreign Exchange Settlement and Sale Banking Services</a>	PBOC	Clarifies conditions to be fulfilled by banks when applying for spot foreign exchange settlement/sales, and to offer RMB and foreign exchange derivatives products.	<b>Limited:</b> Guidelines for applying for these services are limited and vague, and are still bound by limitations in overlapping regulations. While foreign-invested banks can participate in these areas, the policy does not address key investment restrictions that companies face under the Catalogue Guiding Foreign Investment.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/1/14	<a href="#">PBOC Notice on Interbank Currency Exchange Rates and Exchange Rate Announcements</a>	PBOC	Authorizes the China Foreign Exchange Transaction Center to publicly announce exchange rates for various currencies (RMB/USD RMB/EUR, RMB/JPY, etc.) every morning, clarifies how the RMB/USD exchange rate is determined, and allows banks to determine their own daily RMB exchange rates based on market demand.	<b>Limited:</b> While this does create additional flexibility for banks to determine appropriate exchange rates based on observed demand, such flexibility is limited.
8/4/14	<a href="#">Notice on Questions Relating to Management of FIE Foreign Exchange Regional Pilot Zones</a>	SAFE	Establishes 16 pilot zones throughout China, allowing foreign companies to convert up to 100 percent of registered foreign capital into RMB at any point in time, eliminating the need to get approval for each conversion separately. The policy also removes a ban on using registered capital for equity investment in Chinese enterprises.	<b>Limited:</b> This notice – effective immediately – loosens the rules for foreign companies to convert and use registered capital to support their business. While access is still limited to pilot zones, the spread of zones is broad.
12/20/14	<a href="#">Decision to Revise the Administrative Regulations for Foreign-Invested Banks</a>	State Council	Amends China's FIE Bank Administrative Regulations to allow FIE banks freely convertible currency for operating capital. Working capital allocated to bank branches cannot exceed 60 percent of HQ's available capital.	<b>Limited:</b> An incremental step at liberalizing the banking sector for foreign companies; while it eases aspects of their operation by making working capital freely convertible, it doesn't create new market access opportunities or allow banks to expand their operations.
1/26/15	<a href="#">Insurance Industry Foreign Exchange Management Guidelines</a>	SAFE	Defines the rules for the permitted scope of business, foreign bank account management rules, foreign exchange expenditure and payment receipt, and government oversight of insurance companies that utilize foreign currency exchange as part of their business.	<b>Limited:</b> The management guidelines provide insight into how companies can comply with rules regarding foreign exchange issues when offering insurance services, providing some benefit for foreign companies – but does not change rules governing foreign company access to participate in the insurance industry.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
1/29/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Cross-Border Foreign Exchange Payment Services Pilots for Payment Service Companies</a>	SAFE	Launches nationwide pilots allowing payment institutions to receive and send cross-border payments in foreign currencies, as well as foreign exchange settlement for both parties in cross-border e-commerce transactions.	<b>Limited:</b> While the opening would appear to create opportunities for foreign companies and minor financial liberalization, the pilots are likely aimed at domestic firms. Payment institutions must possess a "payment business license" to participate in the pilot. While the rules for domestic companies to apply for such a license are laid out in 2010 PBOC rules, foreign companies are still de facto unable to be granted one.
2/3/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Further Administrative System Reform for Commercial Auto Insurance Clauses and Premiums</a>	CIRC	Calls for a mechanism to ensure market-based development of commercial auto insurance premiums.	<b>Limited:</b> High-level opinions calling for marketization of commercial auto insurance premiums with no specifics. Following up on the opinions, in June auto insurance pilots were announced in Heilongjiang, Shandong, Guangxi, Chongqing, Shaanxi, and Qingdao. Impacted is limited, however, as it impacts only one type of insurance.
2/17/15	<a href="#">Regulatory Rules Numbers 1-17 on Solvency of Insurance Companies</a>	CIRC	Proposes to establish a new "China risk-based solvency system" that requires insurance companies to submit two separate solvency reports quarterly.	<b>Limited:</b> Promotes greater transparency for businesses and consumers, but does not address market access or operational issues.
2/26/15	<a href="#">Plans for Building a Credit System in China's Insurance Industry (2015-2020)</a>	CIRC, NDRC	Proposes to establish a credit system complete with basic credit rating rules and criteria for the insurance industry. Calls for establishing a unified, publicly available credit information system, as well as a credit reporting system covering the whole industry, by 2020.	<b>Limited:</b> The outline is aspirational and requires detailed implementation procedures in order to determine how impactful the announcement will be on industrial development and on foreign companies.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/24/15	<a href="#">Work Plan for Deepening Pilot Reform in Commercial Automobile Insurance Terms and Premium Rates</a>	CIRC	Identifies Heilongjiang, Shandong, Qingdao, Guangxi, Shaanxi, and Chongqing as pilot regions for commercial auto insurance reform. The companies in these regions will be responsible for developing insurance terms at their own discretion, including determining insurance premiums.	<b>Limited:</b> Potentially beneficial industry reform allowing the market to play a determining role in pricing and competition. The plan is limited to a select business sector and geographic regions, thus limiting its potential impact.
4/8/15	<a href="#">Notice on Reforming FIE Foreign Capital Settlement Management</a>	SAFE	Introduces foreign exchange capital settlement measures for FIEs based on similar pilot measures in the Shanghai FTZ. Allows FIEs to exchange or settle up to 100 percent of their foreign capital, starting June 1, 2015.	<b>Moderate:</b> Important liberalization that directly affects how companies will hold their capital. The notice will have an impact on how companies manage their capital for tax purposes, among others, across all sectors.
5/12/15	<a href="#">Notice on Carrying out Pilot Preferential Policies for Individual Income Tax Concerning Commercial Health Insurance</a>	MOF, SAT, CIRC	Allows individuals and companies to use commercial health insurance premiums as a pre-tax deduction in specific pilot zones. An individual taxpayer or company can deduct the amount spent on commercial health insurance products (up to RMB 2,400 per year) and health insurance payments from their pre-tax income. Initial pilot projects will be carried out in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, and Chongqing, with other locations to be selected in the future.	<b>Limited:</b> Offers a potential boost for insurance companies, including foreign companies. However, limited scope (i.e., only four pilot cities announced) will likely result in limited immediate impact.
7/3/15	<a href="#">Reply to the Establishment Plan of the China Insurance Investment Fund</a>	State Council	Approves the establishment of an insurance investment fund that is expected to reach RMB 300 billion. Raises money from insurance organizations, and uses the funds as either a direct investment or a fund of funds. Invests mainly in "One Belt, One Road" initiatives, infrastructure construction, irrigation, and transport facilities.	<b>Limited:</b> At this point the impact is limited because CIRC still needs to set up the fund and issue relevant rules. In the future this policy may be of greater significance because it impacts a range of industries, including insurance, infrastructure, and agriculture.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/2/15	<a href="#">Notice on Issuing the Administrative Provisions on Centralized Operation of Multinational Corporation Foreign Exchange Funds</a>	SAFE	Lays out the pilot implementation of self-discipline management of foreign debt proportions, allowing foreign currency settlements to be used for repaying RMB loans, equity investments, and other debts.	<b>Moderate:</b> Finalizes April 2014 trial rules related to how MNCs manage foreign exchange funds, allowing further flexibility in allowing companies to self-manage debt, simplify account opening requirements, and strengthen management.

## Insurance

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/27/15	<a href="#">CIRC Interim Measures for the Supervision of Internet Insurance Business</a>	CIRC	Lifts geographical operating limits for insurance companies operating over the internet.	<b>Moderate:</b> Is a substantial, nationwide market opening for one sector.
9/11/15	<a href="#">Notice on Matters Relating to the Establishment of Insurance Private Equity Funds</a>	CIRC	Specifies types and permissible investment allocations for insurance-related private equity funds, as well as a standardized fund governance structure, a market-oriented operation approach, and the government's regulatory approach.	<b>Limited:</b> Could create some opportunities for private equity funds in the insurance sector, but impact is limited to that sector.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
10/9/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Matters Relating to Supporting the Construction of National Priority Projects in the Insurance Sector</a>	NDRC and CIRC	Boosts the ability of long-term investment by insurance funds in supporting priority economic projects by expanding available investment channels such as bonds, investment funds, infrastructure investment schemes, asset-backed schemes and other means, providing risk guarantees and better risk control, and pledging better tax, land use, and real estate mortgage policies.	<u>Limited</u> : Could create more opportunities for foreign insurance companies to use their funds in China, but impact is limited to only one sector.
10/29/15	<a href="#">Notice Strictly Regulating Sales of Non-insurance Financial Products</a>	CIRC	Revises existing regulations to clarify the scope of saleable non-insurance products by insurance companies, updates qualification requirements for sales staff, and increases relevant provisions on the sales of non-insurance financial products through Internet channels.	<u>Limited</u> : Some operational impact for insurance companies, but does not create any new openings -- and no impact outside of that sector.
12/11/15	<a href="#">Notice on Implementing Pilot Policies for Individual Income Tax on Commercial Health Insurance</a>	MOF, SAT, CIRC	Decides that the pilot policies for individual income tax on commercial health insurance will be implemented in 31 cities and municipalities; clarifies the standardization and administration of commercial health insurance products; stipulates that the expenses for purchasing commercial health insurance products that comply with the provisions by individuals in pilot regions shall be tax deductible.	Limited: Potentially lowers the tax burden on employers and encourages the expansion of private health insurance coverage. However, the limited geographic implementation has a limited impact on foreign companies.
12/15/15	<a href="#">Measures for the Corporate Governance Evaluation of Incorporated Insurance Institutions (for Trial Implementation)</a>	CIRC	Provides the mechanism, contents, measures, application of results, and other aspects of corporate governance evaluation of incorporated insurance institutions as a basis for applying different levels of monitoring measures; proposes that insurance institutions should be inspected on the basis of responsibility, capability, operation control, incentives, and monitoring.	<u>Limited</u> : This policy lays a constructive framework for evaluation of insurance companies, but its impact is limited to only these companies and does not affect a broad range of foreign firms.

## Securities and Private Equity

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
4/19/13	<a href="#">Rules of Contents and Format of Information Disclosure by Companies Offering Securities</a>	CSRC	Sets new rules for the format and content of quarterly and semiannual reports by listed companies.	<b>None:</b> Constitutes process improvements with limited scope.
3/21/14	<a href="#">Regulations on the Preferred Stock Pilot Program</a>	CSRC	Allows listed companies to issue preferred shares.	<b>Limited:</b> Impact only on companies listed on public exchanges in China.
4/25/14	<a href="#">Notice on Further Tightening Risk Control of Fund Management Companies and Subsidiaries</a>	CIRC	Reduces the risk of specific client asset management business conduct by the subsidiaries by banning certain business practices.	<b>Limited:</b> Increases supervision of financial institutions, but impact on foreign companies limited.
5/9/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Further Promoting Healthy Development of the Capital Market</a>	State Council	Removes administrative approvals from private equity issuance, calls for domestic securities and futures companies to invest in foreign markets, and strengthens regulation of illegal activities in the securities and futures market.	<b>Moderate:</b> Reduces administrative approvals for securities companies, and has a broader indirect impact for other companies in promoting a more open private equity market.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
5/13/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Stimulating Innovation and Development in Securities Institutions</a>	CSRC	Promotes the development of modern investment banks, support for development of new products in asset management, bulk stock, derivatives and private equity, and improved supervision.	<u>Limited</u> : Contains positive language about liberalizing trade, but does not include any substantive changes that would increase market access. Some subsequent policies have touched on these issues, but without making much progress for foreign companies.
6/12/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Promoting the Innovative Development of the Securities Investment Fund Industry</a>	CSRC	Reforms securities regulation by reducing required government approvals and loosening market access controls by setting a negative list for asset management services and by permitting FIE banks to apply for fund management credentials. It also urges securities companies to establish modern asset management mechanisms and develop innovative financial products.	<u>Limited</u> : Positive language that would provide greater market access for securities companies when implemented, but scope is specific only to financial companies and implementation remains limited.
7/7/14	<a href="#">Measures for the Administration of Publicly Offered Securities Investment Fund Operations</a>	CSRC	Reforms government reviews of publicly offered fund products, shifting from approval to registration and limiting the scope of CSRC's review. In the review of an application, CSRC will simply focus on completion of the document, adequacy of disclosures, and administrative issues.	<u>Limited</u> : These measures make process improvements to allow securities companies – both domestic and foreign-invested – more room in creating new products, but do not fundamentally address market access issues.
11/3/14	<a href="#">Notice on Matters Concerning Accessing the Interbank Bond Market by Eligible Non-Financial Institutional Investors</a>	PBOC	Allows non-financial institutional investors to access the interbank bond market.	<u>Limited</u> : Strengthens the role of the bond market in financing and allows markets – and not the government – to play a more decisive role in finance. However, scope of the opening is limited to a small number of institutional investors.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
11/14/14	<a href="#">Notice on Tax Policies Concerning the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Market Trading Interconnection Pilot Program</a>	CSRC, SAT, MOF	Clarifies tax collection policies for the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Market Interconnection pilot program for mainland and Hong Kong investors.	<b>Moderate:</b> Policy announcement does not address new market openings, but is a step in improving comprehensive financial reform, which includes allowing outside investors that are involved in the Hong Kong exchange access to China's stock markets.
7/1/15	<a href="#">Administrative Measures on Margin Financing and Securities Lending Services</a>	CSRC	Requires that a securities firm's margin financing and securities lending be no greater than four times its net capital. Allows firms to extend margin agreements with customers, before reaching the six-month margin contract term limit. Prohibits firms from offering margin financing and securities lending services to unsuitable customers.	<b>Limited:</b> The policy is limited to margin financing and securities lending firms, with limited impact on the broader financial industry. The measures may have a positive impact on companies' ability to implement counter-cyclical adjustments and give greater flexibility to make adjustments to the margin trading ratios, but makes no fundamental change in the scope of business they can conduct.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/31/15	<a href="#">Notice about Questions Concerning Foreign Exchange Administration or Foreign Investors and Foreign Brokerage Agencies Practicing Particular Kinds of Domestic Futures Transactions</a>	SAFE	Allows foreign investors and brokers to use both foreign capital and RMB to invest in Chinese futures designated by CSRC. Allows foreign investors and brokers to open special foreign-exchange settlement accounts at certain depository banks.	<b>Limited:</b> This notice eases the rules for foreign traders to invest in China's oil futures markets, creating some openings in China's capital markets. Although a positive sign for investment openings in trading/brokerage services, this policy has a limited impact due to the narrow sector scope.
11/6/15	<a href="#">Operating Guidelines for the Administration of Cross-border Issuance and Sales of Securities Investment Fund between Mainland China and Hong Kong</a>	PBOC & SAFE	Clarifies the obligations and duties of the Chinese and Hong Kong regulatory agencies overseeing cross-border issuance of funds, specifies details in handling proceeds from those transactions, and calls for the establishment of systematic statistics and data submission procedures.	<b>Limited:</b> Provides clarity for companies and regulators on how such securities would be issued and handled, which could encourage more foreign companies to use the mechanism. However, the guidelines are narrowly focused on transactions between Hong Kong and the mainland.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
11/13/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Strengthening the Protection of Financial Consumer Rights and Interests</a>	State Council	Defines basic rights of financial consumers, including the rights to property, knowledge, free choice, fair trade, legal claims, and information security, and requires agencies and banks to better coordinate and offer guarantees for consumer protection. The policy also calls for the establishment of an emergency coordination mechanism in the case of a financial crisis, and of a dispute settlement mechanism to protect consumers.	<b>Limited:</b> Policy sets high-level principles that could impact operations for financial institutions, but is aspirational with no implementation details.
12/4/15	<a href="#">Provisions on Circuit Breaker as well as the Questions and Answers on Circuit Breaker Mechanism</a>	SSE	Shortens the trading suspension in case of a 5 percent rise or fall from 30 minutes to 15 minutes, and correspondingly postpones the commencing time for a trading suspension until closing in the case of a 5 percent rise or fall from 2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.	<b>Moderate:</b> Though the provisions have no direct impact on foreign companies, fluctuations in the domestic stock markets had a notable impact on foreign market confidence in China resulting in large fluctuations. Since the policy was promulgated, the circuit breaker mechanism has been abandoned.
12/22/15	<a href="#">PBOC Announcement 2015 No.39</a>	PBOC	Allows financial institutions to issue “green bonds” in the inter-bank bond market to raise funds for environmental projects.	<b>Limited:</b> This policy provides an opening for all financial institutions to offer additional products, and may make financing more readily available for companies providing environmentally-friendly goods and services. However, it does not have a direct affect on foreign companies in other industries.

## Other

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/17/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Further Effectively Implementing Industrial Credit Evaluation Work</a>	MOFCOM, SASAC	Promotes the establishment of a nationwide system to evaluate company credit (so-called "5-in-1"), led by industry associations and trade unions. The notice calls on these groups to promote company creditworthiness, build credit evaluation and supervision tools (including "blacklists"), and foster the development of third-party credit management and evaluation agencies.	<u>Limited:</u> Impact is indirect and limited, as these rules apply directly to industry associations in China, which have limited foreign company membership.
9/15/15	<a href="#">Notice on Advancing Reforms on Registration Administration Mechanism of Overseas Corporate Bonds</a>	NDRC	Replaces current approval requirements for credit limits of overseas bonds with a filing mechanism, which does not cap the debt amount, and instead only requires notifying NDRC in advance of the issuance and again 10 days afterwards.	<u>Limited:</u> Slightly streamlines the administrative licensing process for overseas corporate bonds, but impact is limited to this one step in the process and to this one sector.
12/11/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Providing Financial Support for the Construction of China (Tianjin, Guangdong, and Fujian respectively) Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ)</a>	PBOC	Highlights the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao financial cooperation, deepens the cross-strait financial cooperation of Taiwan and Fujian, and provides financial support for the development of the leasing industry.	<u>Limited:</u> Though this opinion allows non-financial institutions and private citizens of Hong Kong and Macao to conduct cross-border RMB transactions, the scope is limited to institutions in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macao - and thus has limited impact on foreign companies operating outside of those areas.

## VII. Pricing Reform and Competition Policy

### Pricing Reforms

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/8/13	<a href="#">Notice on Near-Term Energy Market Supervision Work</a>	NEA	Promotes electricity market supervision, increases direct trading between power companies and consumers, and boosts cost and price supervision.	<u>Limited</u> : Advances central government reforms to allow the market a greater role in determining energy prices, but has not made much tangible difference for companies regarding government regulation of energy markets.
9/30/13	<a href="#">Pricing Case Administrative Penalty Review Rules</a>	NDRC	Provides instructions for price departments at all levels on the review process for administrative penalty cases, and further standardizes the pricing department's exercise of power in dealing with administrative punishment cases.	<u>Limited</u> : Process-oriented reform that aims to improve and standardize the investigation process in pricing-related cases. Signals a step forward in improving transparency.
11/15/13	<a href="#">Announcement on the Market Adjusted Price for the Charges of Mobile Communications Resale Services under the Pilot Program</a>	MIIT, NDRC	Specifies that market prices will be used for local calls, long distance calls, roaming calls, short messages, multimedia messages, data and other resale services operated by resale enterprises under the pilot program and that the restriction of differential pricing for intranet and extranet upon resale enterprises will be cancelled.	<u>Limited</u> : Allows the market to play a greater role in pricing, but only specific to telecom service providers in the mobile resale pilot program, which does not currently include any foreign companies.
1/16/14	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on the Online Handling of Cases Involving Administrative Penalties for Price-related Violations</a>	NDRC	Makes price authorities with administrative law enforcement information platforms responsible for approving price activities, managing evidence, and other price-related tasks.	<u>None</u> : Process-oriented guiding opinions, with no real impact on foreign companies.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
1/21/14	<a href="#">Revised Rules on the Handling of Whistle-blowing of Illegal Pricing Behavior</a>	NDRC	Allows whistleblowers to inform price authorities of illegal pricing behavior, where an alleged wrongdoer causes consumers to overpay due to its illegal pricing activities, the competent price authorities shall order the wrongdoer to refund the overpaid money to consumers before it decides to impose an administrative penalty for such illegal pricing activities.	<b>Limited:</b> Step towards promoting market-based pricing and cracking down illegal pricing behaviors, which could have both positive and negative impacts for foreign companies.
4/15/14	<a href="#">Opinions on the Supply of Low-cost Common Drugs</a>	NDRC, MHRSS, NHFPC, MOF, CFDA	Improves price regulation on low-cost drugs and abolishes price ceilings.	<b>Limited:</b> Marks significant change to a priority set of pricing policies, but impact limited to one sub-sector (common/low-cost drugs) of one industry (pharmaceuticals) that is dominated by domestic players.
7/18/14	<a href="#">Notice on Issues Concerning Lifting the Control of Fee Standards for Certain Professional Services</a>	NDRC	Removes fixed government pricing standards for certain administrative processes, and allows the prices for these services to be determined by the market.	<b>Limited:</b> Most of the fixed prices previously set by the government that have been removed are not of significant relevance to foreign companies, nor does removal of a fixed price improve market restrictions.
1/4/15	<a href="#">State Releases Price Controls on 24 Items</a>	NDRC	Rescinds state price controls on 24 goods and services, including tobacco leaves, express railway shipping services, civil aviation product shipping, shipping container handling services, etc.	<b>Limited:</b> A positive step at allowing the market to play a role in allocation of some state resources and services. Some impact for American companies involved in these sectors.
5/4/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Promoting Pharmaceutical Drug Price Reform</a>	NDRC, NHFPC, MOHRSS, MIIT, MOF, MOFCOM, CFDA	Starting June 1, 2015, prices for most pharmaceuticals – except some narcotics and psychoactive drugs – will be decided by the market, instead of government. The opinions remove price ceilings for most drugs, which were previously fixed by NDRC.	<b>Moderate:</b> Significantly broadens market-based pricing for pharmaceutical products, giving foreign and domestic pharmaceutical companies in China greater flexibility on pricing mechanisms and more negotiating power to set prices for new drugs. CFDA in late May 2015 released

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
				follow-up policies discussing drug pricing issues.
5/7/15	<a href="#">Notice on Improving Pricing Mechanism for Trans-provincial and Trans-regional Electric Power Transactions</a>	NDRC	Allows power producers and suppliers to set the quantity and price of trans-provincial and trans-regional electric power.	<b>Moderate:</b> Market-oriented pricing will likely impact the price of electricity for industrial and commercial users by creating greater competition among power generation companies.
5/27/15	<a href="#">Fee Standards for Registration of Drugs and Medical Devices</a>	CFDA	Establishes registration fee standards for drugs and medical devices. The standards differentiate pricing for imported products versus domestic products.	<b>Limited:</b> Higher fee standards for imported over domestically produced pharmaceutical drugs and medical devices will increase costs for foreign-produced goods. These standards will put foreign producers at a cost disadvantage compared to their domestic competitors.
6/15/15	<a href="#">Pilot Plan for the Reform of Power Transmission and Distribution Price in the Western Part of Inner Mongolia</a>	NDRC	Allows local authorities to set the transmission and distribution cost of electricity based on "cost plus a reasonable margin," replacing the system in which grid companies took their profits from the spread between power purchase and sales.	<b>Limited:</b> Furthers the goal of allowing the market to play a role in the allocation of resources, but scope of reform limited to Inner Mongolia.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
6/23/15	<a href="#">Notice on Lifting the Control on Part of the Inspection and Testing Services Fees</a>	NDRC	Allows professional services institutions, not the government, to determine formulas to assess nine types of fees, including inspection fees on vessels and marine products, inspection/testing fees on cell phones, and accreditation fees for product certification institutions.	<b>Limited:</b> The limited number of fees being switched to market-oriented pricing will likely result in minimal impact on foreign companies.
8/5/15	<a href="#">Announcement on Thoroughly Implementing the Release of Some Examination and Inspection Operating Services Fees</a>	AQSIQ	Carries out the NDRC notice from June that allows professional service agents, instead of the government, to set prices for seven kinds of inspection fees, including cell phone inspection, national special equipment, and bar code services.	<b>Limited:</b> This is a positive step in allowing the market to determine prices, but its impact is limited to only seven types of inspection fees. The announcement offers no details about the specialized service agents or their qualifications.

## Competition Policy

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/28/13	<a href="#">Work Plan on Eliminating Regional Barriers and Breaking Up Industry Monopolies</a>	MOFCOM, CBRC, CSRC, CIRC, and seven other ministries and agencies	Lays out work to promote fair, market-based competition.	<b>Limited:</b> Describes planned work to increase pressure on regional monopolies and promote equal market access. Though the document didn't make major policy changes, China has since increased its competition enforcement efforts. More work has been done in recent years to tackle the related issue of administrative monopolies.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
6/6/14	<a href="#">Revised Guiding Opinions on Declaration of Mergers</a>	MOFCOM	Clarifies company requirements for declaring mergers with new requirements; the rules require companies to document ownership control and share, share of operational control, details about new corporate entities (such as joint ventures) created during a transaction, and provide guidance on how to handle pre-merger discussions and multiparty mergers.	<b>Moderate:</b> Scope of changes cuts across industry sectors and provides important clarifications helpful to companies governing their communication with MOFCOM during the merger review process. The continued increase in M&A reviews from MOFCOM, along with the limited number of conditional approvals in the time since this policy, indicate that companies are using these new tools.
7/8/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Promoting Fair Competition and Maintaining Regular Order in the Market</a>	State Council	Encourages government entities to reduce supervisory measures and processes that have a negative impact on companies, with a goal of establishing a more mature market supervision system by 2020. Focal areas include administrative streamlining, addressing regional monopolies, and improving market access and market exit mechanisms.	<b>Limited:</b> Calls for reducing prohibitive measures that affect business operations, but seems to be aimed at domestic companies; foreign companies are mentioned only once (in the context of offering foreign investors pre-establishment and negative list treatment). The document is aspirational in nature and covers a limited number of FIE concerns on market access and investment barriers. Additionally, subsequent action in these priority areas has yet to meaningfully address foreign company concerns.
10/24/14	<a href="#">Work Plan for Parallel Approvals of Acquisitions of Publicly Traded Companies</a>	MIIT, CSRC, NDRC, MOFCOM	Changes the requirements regarding investment reviews allowing NDRC reviews of overseas investment projects and MOFCOM reviews of merger reviews to run parallel with CSRC approval of acquisitions of publicly traded companies. Such reviews were formerly conducted separately. Reviewing agencies must also make their decisions independent of other agencies.	<b>Limited:</b> Though process changes are relatively minor, the changes should alleviate some delays in the approval process for M&A and investment projects involving foreign companies, and promote more independent decision-making by authorities during MOFCOM AML reviews.

## VIII. Rule of Law/Legal and Judicial Reform

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
6/8/13	<a href="#">Announcement on Implementing Effective Regulatory Documents and Abolishing Some Regulatory Documents</a>	AQSIQ	Announces an AQSIQ review of more than 1,000 internal regulatory documents – and the elimination of 58 of these as "unnecessary."	<b>None:</b> Eliminates unnecessary regulatory documents, but only a process-oriented reform for AQSIQ.
10/30/13	<a href="#">12th National People's Congress Legislative Plan</a>	NPC	Lays out 68 central government legislative priorities for the next five years.	<b>Moderate:</b> Lays out guidelines for China's key reforms over the next five years. Most notably, it prioritizes revising the Unfair Competition Law, as well as three laws related to Foreign-Invested Enterprise laws, the WFOE, EJV, and CJV laws.
11/22/13	<a href="#">Opinions on Further Strengthening the Administrative Law Enforcement for Commerce</a>	MOFCOM	Takes various measures designed to increase transparency in law enforcement and administration.	<b>Limited:</b> Makes recommendations on increasing transparency in commercial law enforcement, but the practical impact of such measures on foreign company operations remains unclear.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
2/4/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Publishing Information relating to Administrative Penalty Cases Involving Producing and Selling Counterfeits and Infringement of Intellectual Property Rights</a>	State Council	Requires administrative enforcement agencies to proactively disclose the information relating to administrative penalty cases involving counterfeiting and IPR infringement within 20 working days of an administrative decision.	<u>Moderate</u> : Promotes transparency and legal reform in a commercial area important to foreign companies (IPR).
5/4/14	<a href="#">Administrative Measures for the Tendering and Bidding of Telecommunication Construction Projects</a>	MIIT	Adopts public bidding for telecommunication construction projects in which state-owned capital possesses a holding or leading position and must be subject to bid invitation in accordance with the law.	<u>None</u> : No impact on foreign companies, as they are not active in this space.
8/31/14	<a href="#">Decision on Establishing Intellectual Property (IP) Courts in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou</a>	National People's Congress Standing Committee	Creates specialized courts on a pilot basis in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou to handle administrative appeals and some civil IP cases.	<u>Moderate</u> : Creation of these courts could improve the ability of companies in a range of sectors to better protect their IP, and courts are building a solid track record in beginning to hear cases and engage with the public. However, the scope of the pilot remains limited to three geographic areas.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/17/15	<a href="#">Implementing Opinions on the CCP Central Committee Decision Concerning Major Issues in Comprehensively Promoting the Rule of Law</a>	MOJ	Identifies several areas for judicial administration reform, such as deepening reform of the penal system, continuing reforms for lawyers, improving the community correction system, expanding the scope of legal aid, and ensuring support for legal expenses.	<b>Limited:</b> Potentially positive broad reforms to the legal system, which aid in transparency and rule of law. However, the document is still considered an opinion, and will require detailed follow-up implementation guidelines.
3/30/15	<a href="#">Provisions on the Record-Keeping, Reporting and Accountability for Interventions in Judicial Activities and Meddling in Specific Cases by Leading Cadres</a>	CCP Central Committee, State Council Information Office	Aims to restrict any party interference in judicial cases and promote adherence to the Constitution. Notes that judicial offices that record interference from outside parties will be protected by the law.	<b>Moderate:</b> Positive legislation that will be beneficial to China's transparency and judicial reform efforts. In August, the People's Supreme Court issued implementation measures to carry out the provisions, including requiring a person or organization outside the judiciary to handle the information database for inquiries/comments on judicial cases. However, true impact and effectiveness still depends on the ability to enforce the provisions.
4/4/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Improving Standardization Work for Energy Conservation</a>	State Council General Office	Encourages relevant ministries and authorities to design and enforce energy efficiency standards. Establishes a goal of having an advanced system of energy efficiency standards by 2020, with 80 percent of energy efficiency standards matching international levels.	<b>Limited:</b> Strong signal from State Council to improve standards and enforcement in energy conservation, and increased harmonization with international standards is a positive development. Impact on foreign companies is challenging to assess until draft energy efficiency standards are released.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
4/24/15	<a href="#">Decision of the National People's Congress Standing Committee on Revising the Drug Administration Law</a>	NPC Standing Committee	Revises the existing law to remove requirements for drug manufacturers and distributors to have their "drug manufacturing license" before registering with local administrations of industry and commerce. The revision also removes fixed pricing and pricing guidance by the government. The updated law comes into effect immediately.	<u>Limited:</u> These minor revisions do not address industry concerns with the drug supervisory system, legal liabilities, and administrative penalties for violations currently found in the law. It is an incremental step forward in reducing the government's role and letting market determinants be a bigger factor in the industry. Overall, the impact is limited to one industry, and is limited by the small scope of revisions made.
9/21/15	<a href="#">General Plan on Reforming Ecological Civilization Mechanism</a>	State Council	Proposes a systematic and complete institutional framework composed of eight systems for promoting ecological progress to be established by 2020, including a system of property rights for natural resource assets and a system for evaluating officials' performance.	<u>Limited:</u> Proposed changes would promote stronger rule of law within the environmental protection field and increase enforcement transparency; the plan, however, lacks implementation details.
12/11/15	<a href="#">Proposals for Comprehensively Implementing the Ultra-low Emissions and Energy-saving Transformation of Coal-fired Power Plants</a>	MEP, NDRC, NEA	Stipulates that by 2020, all national coal-fired power plants meeting transformation conditions will strive to achieve ultra-low emissions, and qualified newly established coal-fired generating units will achieve ultra-low emission levels.	<u>Limited:</u> Potentially offers opportunities for foreign companies that sell emissions scrubbing technologies, low sulphur coal or industrial boilers. However, the impact is limited to companies in a small number of sectors.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/3/15	<a href="#">Plan for Pilot Ecological Damage Compensation System</a>	State Council	Proposes a mandatory compensation negotiation mechanism to avoid costly and prolonged litigation processes for parties involved in litigation related to environmental damage; enacts an installment payment option to allow the accused to split the fine payments, so as to make sure they are able to make the payments and remain solvent. The plan affects cases where significant environmental damage occurred in areas where development is banned or restricted by national or provincial governments. The pilot will be implemented with the goal of establishing a comprehensive damage compensation system by 2020.	<u>Limited: Proposed pilot would promote stronger rule of law within the environmental protection field, increase enforcement transparency, and address long standing environmental protection concerns; the plan, however, is initially limited in geographic scope and may ultimately negatively impact foreign companies who would prefer litigation over negotiation.</u>
10/12/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Further Strengthening the Application and Protection of Intellectual Property Rights to Support Innovation and Entrepreneurship</a>	SIPO, MOF, MHRSS, All-China Federation of Trade Unions, Communist Youth League Central Committee	Establishes four basic principles to strengthen IPR protection, including "market orientation," with specific goals to improve IPR policies, encourage IPR services and entrepreneurship, strengthen patent analysis and use of ICT technologies, boost IPR enforcement (including patent enforcement), and strengthen training and capacity-building.	<u>Limited: While the policy contains positive language that could benefit IP development and create opportunities for foreign companies, little of the content is new, "market orientation" is not defined, and the policy contains no implementing details.</u>

## IX. Taxation and Budget

### Taxation

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
5/24/13	<a href="#">Announcement on Implementing VAT Pilot Projects Nationwide in Transport and some Service Industries</a>	SAT	Expands local value-added tax (VAT) reform pilot covering some transportation and services areas nationwide as of August 1, 2013.	<u>Limited</u> : Promotes some measure of tax reform for the transportation and a few service industries.
8/15/13	<a href="#">Extension of the Zhongguancun "1+6" Reform Policies</a>	MOST, MOF, SAT	Extends current preferential tax policies for high-tech, innovative enterprise development.	<u>Limited</u> : Extends existing preferential tax policies that foreign companies have participated in, but does not expand or change the policy.
9/24/13	<a href="#">Notice on the Launch of a Nationwide Inspection Campaign on Fees Imposed on Businesses</a>	NDRC	Initiates nationwide inspection campaign to crack down on arbitrary charges by governmental departments and industries.	<u>Limited</u> : Campaign is supposed to eradicate arbitrary charges and reduce costs for businesses. Follow-up policies have been released to require companies to eliminate unnecessary fees and to cancel or suspend administrative fees.
1/29/14	<a href="#">Notice on Promoting the Healthy Development of Labor-intensive Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises</a>	MOF	Provides additional tax breaks and preferential fiscal policies to boost the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises in the light, textile, machinery, electronics, wholesale and retail, accommodation and catering, residential services, elderly services, modern services, and many other industries.	<u>Limited</u> : Only applies to SMEs and limited participation for foreign multinationals.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/24/14	<a href="#">Notice on Simplifying Invoice Receipts and Usage Procedures for the Value Added Tax</a>	SAT	Simplifies the tax regime to provide law-abiding taxpayers with more convenient tax methods, including simplifying invoice receipts and usage procedures for the VAT.	<u>Limited</u> : Impact for taxpayers across industry, but only focused on tax issues (and limited to individual taxpayers, not corporate taxpayers).
4/8/14	<a href="#">Notice Regarding Adjustment in Tax Preferential Treatment for Small Businesses</a>	MOF, SAT	Further alleviates the tax burden for small businesses, and promotes employment and economic development.	<u>Limited</u> : Reduces tax burdens on enterprises, but limited impact on multinationals.
4/30/14	<a href="#">Notice on Including the Telecom Sector in VAT Pilots</a>	MOF, SAT	Includes the telecom sector in VAT pilots.	<u>Limited</u> : Promotes some measure of tax reform for the telecom sector, but impact limited to that sector.
5/13/14	<a href="#">Notice on Tax Collection Policy for Aircraft Leasing Companies</a>	MOF, GAC, SAT	Reduces the tax rate from 17 percent to 5 percent for companies that import airplanes above 25 tons in order to lease them to domestic airlines; this reduced tax rate paid by domestic airlines.	<u>Limited</u> : Provides a tangible tax reduction, but direct impact is limited to companies leasing aircraft. Indirectly impacts foreign aviation firms as well, as it could spur more purchases/imports of foreign aircraft.
7/30/14	<a href="#">Notice on Expanding the Scope of the Pilot Program for Tax Rebate Policy at Ports of Departure</a>	MOF, GAC, SAT	Expands an export tax rebate pilot for maritime shipping companies from Shanghai to eight additional ports, including Nanjing, Suzhou, Lianyungang, Wuhu, Jiujiang, Qingdao, Wuhan, and Yueyang. The expanded program goes into effect September 1, 2014.	<u>Limited</u> : The policy allows for process improvements for companies to receive export tax rebates, but remains limited to a specific set of nine pilot ports on and around the Yangtze River.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/1/14	<a href="#">Announcement on the Exemption from Vehicle Purchase Tax for New Energy Vehicles</a>	MOF, SAT, MIIT	Removes the vehicle purchase tax (which is one of several taxes related to vehicle pricing) for new energy vehicles for a period of three years.	<u>Limited:</u> Potential to positively impact companies that manufacture NEVs, with indirect benefit to suppliers and after-market service providers. This also specifies the same criteria for qualified imported cars as well. However, only vehicles listed in the NEV tax exempt catalogue qualify for the elimination of vehicle purchase tax; only one foreign vehicle currently qualifies.
8/27/14	<a href="#">Administrative Measures for Value-added Tax Exemptions on Cross-border Services (for Trial Implementation)</a>	SAT	Revises previous standards for the types of cross-border services to include in China's efforts to transition from a business tax to a VAT, clarifying that reforms include postal, delivery services, and telecom services.	<u>Limited:</u> This revision clarifies the tax situation for a range of companies providing specific cross-border services, but is primarily an extension of an existing reform effort.
9/9/14	<a href="#">Notice on Policies concerning the Adjustment to Resource Tax on Crude Oil and Natural Gas</a>	MOF	Adjusts subsidies and tax rates for 27 oil, natural gas, and mineral extraction companies in China.	<u>Limited:</u> Impact limited to the energy sector.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/10/14	<a href="#">Notice on the Nationwide Implementation of the Pilot Export Rebate Policy for Financial Leasing Goods</a>	MOF, GAC, SAT	Expands the pilot program for VAT and consumption tax rebates on exported leased products with a lease term of five years or greater nationwide, previously limited to Tianjin's Dongjiang Free Trade Port Zone.	<u>Limited</u> : The rebates are most likely aimed at domestic companies as the service eligible for exemption is "exported" products.
10/8/14	<a href="#">Notice on the Adjustment of Coal Import Tariffs</a>	State Council	Removes a provisional zero percent tariff rate on various types of imported coal.	<u>Limited</u> : Impact limited to the energy sector and does not have a major impact on operations.
10/9/14	<a href="#">Notice on Implementing the Coal Resource Tax Reform</a>	MOF, SAT	Lays out plans for implementing and administering the new tax reform plan for imported coal, including tax calculation and collection.	<u>Limited</u> : Impact limited to the energy sector.
10/10/14	<a href="#">Notice on Issues Relating to Disposing of Payment Funds Concerning Coal, Crude Oil, and Natural Gas</a>	MOF, NDRC	Removes several forms of subsidy and benefits to coal, oil, and natural gas producers—including removing a subsidy that brought their tax rate to zero percent.	<u>Limited</u> : Impact limited to the energy sector.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
11/14/14	<a href="#">Notice on Issues Concerning the Temporary Exemption of Corporate Income Tax on Income from the Transfer of Stock or Other Equity Investment Assets Gained by Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors (QFII) and RMB Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors</a>	CSRC, SAT, MOF	Removes the corporate income tax for capital gains from stock purchased in mainland China for qualified foreign institutional investors (QFII) and RMB-qualified foreign institutional investors (RQFII).	<u>Limited:</u> Encourages more foreign capital in China's stock market, creating additional investor opportunities while also strengthening China's stock market. However, the announcement does not address market access issues.
11/25/14	<a href="#">Notice on the Increase of Oil Consumption Tax</a>	MOF	Raises the consumption tax on various types of refined oil used in transportation (i.e., gasoline, aviation kerosene).	<u>Limited:</u> Largely aimed at reducing oil consumption in an effort to reduce pollution, while promoting the use and development of new energy vehicles - but impact limited to a small number of sectors.
11/25/14	<a href="#">Notice on the Adjustment of Consumption Tax</a>	MOF, SAT	Adjusts consumption tax on various products including removal of consumption tax on automobile tires, low-displacement motorcycles, and alcoholic spirits.	<u>Limited:</u> A limited impact on prices for a small range of products.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/9/14	<a href="#">State Council Notice on Cleaning Up and Standardizing Taxes and Beneficial Policies</a>	State Council	Standardizes tax and non-tax business incentives offered to businesses by local governments by requiring central government approval of incentives offered, and creating single lines of reporting to ensure adherence to rules.	<u>Limited</u> : Aimed to create greater consistency and transparency among local government officials by attempting to standardize the types of incentives they can use to attract business and cancel unapproved existing incentives. However, major questions about the implications of the circular for existing incentives led to the release of a follow-up notice that largely suspended its implementation and stated that existing incentives would continue to be honored.
12/16/14	<a href="#">Import-Export Tax Adjustment Announcement</a>	MOF	Reduces tariff rates for various imported products to levels lower than those offered through most-favored nation status. Impacted products include (but are not limited to) advanced manufacturing equipment for optical communication lasers, camera lenses, and automatic wire welding machines. New tariff rates went into effect as of January 1, 2015.	<u>Limited</u> : Lowers key tariff rates in various product areas, especially high-tech equipment, in a possible nod to Information Technology Agreement negotiations. However, known impact still limited to products in those categories, given that ITA negotiations are still ongoing.
12/25/14	<a href="#">Notices on Issues Concerning the Enterprise Income Tax Treatment for the Promotion of Enterprise Restructurings</a>	MOF, SAT	Expands the number of M&A deals that could be eligible for “special tax treatment.”	<u>Limited</u> : Creates greater room – and incentives – for companies across a range of sectors to pursue M&A as a means of growth, but scope of improvement is fairly limited.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
2/3/15	<a href="#">Announcement on Issues Concerning Income Tax on Indirect Property Transfers by Non-Resident Enterprises</a>	SAT	Addresses foreign enterprise offshore tax avoidance efforts by determining that indirect transfer of taxable assets by non-resident enterprises that results in avoidance of corporate income tax shall be deemed as direct transfer of China taxable assets and thus subject to tax in China.	<b>Limited:</b> A concerted effort by Chinese authorities to ensure collection of taxes and restrict offshoring of capital for tax-avoidance purposes. Likely impacts a broad range of foreign companies across different sectors.
3/10/15	<a href="#">Announcement on Corporate Income Tax Issues Concerning the Implementation of the Catalogue of Encouraged Industries in Western China</a>	SAT	Reduces the corporate income tax rate to 15 percent for companies in western China involved in a sector included in the Catalogue of Encouraged Industries in western China. Revenues generated from activities in the encouraged sector must account for greater than 70 percent of overall revenue.	<b>Moderate:</b> Helpful tax relief for companies engaged in these sectors; geographic scope limited to western China.
3/13/15	<a href="#">Notice on Preferential Corporate Income Tax Policies for Small Low-Profit Enterprises</a>	MOF, SAT	Reduces the corporate income tax on small companies making less than RMB 200,000 (\$31,922) annually for a period of three years.	<b>Limited:</b> Helpful tax relief for small companies but likely will not have a significant impact on a broad range of foreign companies operating in China.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/20/15	<a href="#">Announcement on Issues Concerning Corporate Income Tax on Payments Made by Enterprises to Related Parties Overseas</a>	SAT	Specifies that an enterprise, when making payments to related parties overseas, shall abide by the "arm's length principle" and provide, if required by the tax authority, the contract and other materials to prove the transaction is independent and fair. The announcement lists four payment scenarios that do not conform to the arm's length principle, and thus cannot be deducted when calculating enterprise income.	<u>Limited</u> : Follows a trend of policy announcements addressing tax collection in China, with a focus on internal capital controls and potentially transfer pricing between entities. Represents a positive development for China's tax collection intentions and capabilities, but may result in more intrusive government control on companies' ability to manage their finances.
4/3/15	<a href="#">Notice on the 2015 Plan for Tax-Free Imports of Seeds and Stock for Breeding of Poultry, Fish, Wildlife, and Wild Animal and Plant Species</a>	MOF, GAC, SAT	Exempts the import of certain seeds, poultry and wildlife breeding stock, fish breeding eggs, and wild animal and plant species seeds during the Twelfth Five-Year Plan period from import taxes.	<u>Limited</u> : Potential benefit to foreign companies exporting such goods to China, but does not address limitations on these products put in place by the Catalogue Guiding Foreign Investment – and sector scope is very limited.
4/30/15	<a href="#">Notice on Carrying out the Reform on Collecting Resources Tax on Rare Earth, Tungsten and Molybdenum by Ad Valorem</a>	MOF, SAT	Starting May 1, the resources tax on rare earth, tungsten, and molybdenum will be levied on an <i>ad valorem</i> basis (i.e., according to price) instead of on a quantity basis.	<u>Limited</u> : Minor improvement to resource tax that will only impact energy sector.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
4/30/15	<a href="#">Notice on Sorting out Fees and Funds involving Rare Earth, Tungsten, and Molybdenum</a>	MOF, SAT	Cancels the collection of fees for the price regulation fund starting May 1.	<u>Limited</u> : Minor improvement to resource tax that will only impact energy sector.
5/18/15	<a href="#">Notice on Adopting Preferential Taxation Policies for Vehicles and Vessels Using New Energy</a>	MOF, SAT, MIIT	Specifies requirements for energy-saving passenger and commercial vehicles to receive tax incentives, including reduced tax rates for energy-saving passenger and commercial vehicles and exemptions from vehicle and vessel taxes for new-energy commercial vehicles.	<u>None</u> : This notice provides more detailed requirements for receiving the tax break compared to a 2012 notice, which offered similar tax reductions. Limited sector impact.
5/25/15	<a href="#">Notice on Adjusting the Import Tariffs on Certain Consumer Goods</a>	Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council	Temporarily reduces the tariff import rate on several consumer goods products, including skin care products, fur clothing, wool coats, wool suits, various shoes and boots, and paper diapers.	<u>Limited</u> : Temporary adjustment to the tariff rate on consumer goods that may result in greater sales for certain imported goods in the consumer goods sector.
7/1/15	<a href="#">Administrative Measures on Coal Resource Tax Levying (for Trial Implementation)</a>	SAT	Provides details on how to calculate the coal resource tax, and gives preferential tax treatment to separated and washed coal.	<u>Limited</u> : Impact limited to the coal industry. The measures have a potential positive impact on environmental awareness, as they incentivize the production and consumption of clean coal.
8/25/15	<a href="#">Implementation Plan for Promoting Random Tax Inspections</a>	SAT	Introduces and sets guidelines for a "random check" system under which tax officials randomly select taxpayers for inspection based on tax classifications and indications of abnormal tax activity.	<u>Limited</u> : Process-oriented reform design to standardize tax inspections. Such a reform could limit the possibility of differential treatment for foreign and domestic taxpayers.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/10/15	<a href="#">Announcement on Issues with Comprehensively Implementing a Further Expanded Scope for a 50% Income Tax Reduction for Small and Low-profit Companies</a>	SAT	Stipulates that from October 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017, qualified small, low-profit companies with 300,000 RMB taxable income or less can enjoy half of their normal income tax rate, regardless of how their taxes are collected.	<b>None:</b> Foreign companies are unlikely to qualify as small companies with low profits under the criteria in these regulations, meaning they would be unable to benefit from the tax reduction.
9/21/15	<a href="#">Notice on Further Improving Enterprise Income Tax Policies Related to the Accelerated Depreciation of Fixed Assets</a>	MOF, SAT	Allows companies in the light industry, textile, machinery, and automotive industries to shorten the depreciation period for fixed assets purchased after January 1, 2015, and also allows small, low-profit enterprises to deduct costs for instruments and equipment from taxable income.	<b>Limited:</b> Reduces taxes for some companies, but limited to particular industries.
9/28/15	<a href="#">“Internet Plus Taxation” Action Plan</a>	SAT	Sets goals for the formation of a digitally integrated tax system, with use of new Internet and communication technologies such as crowd sourcing, mobile applications, and mobile office to foster more unified, standardized, and efficient tax work by 2020. Specific areas of tax work include social cooperation, taxation services, invoice services, information services, and intelligent applications.	<b>Limited:</b> While some of the areas described in the plan could increase transparency and efficiency of the tax system and make it easier for foreign companies to pay corporate taxes, the plan is aspirational and lacks implementation detail.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
10/28/15	<a href="#">Notice on Nationwide Promotion of Pilot Tax Policies in National Independent Innovation Demonstration Zones</a>	MOF & SAT	Proposes the nationwide implementation of four tax policies previously applied only in national indigenous innovation demonstration zones, creating incentives to invest in small and medium-sized high-tech enterprises, conduct technology transfers, and create stock plans for high-tech companies.	<b>Limited:</b> While these policies can create more innovation-related incentives that foreign companies could theoretically use, these tax policies are not major innovation drivers for foreign companies, and thus expanded use has only a minor impact on top company issues.
10/30/15	<a href="#">Notice on the Application of a Zero-rate Value-added Tax Policy to Film, Television and Other Export Services</a>	MOF & SAT	Stipulates that the zero-rated value-added tax (VAT) policy applies to taxable services provided by domestic entities and individuals for overseas entities. Eligible taxable services include services related to radio, film and television production and distribution; technology transfer; software; integrated circuit design and testing; information systems; business process management; offshore services outsourcing, and others.	<b>Limited:</b> Lowers the VAT tax rate for a variety of selected services, which should benefit companies in those industries. However, impact remains limited to a handful of sectors where foreign companies are meaningfully engaged.
11/3/15	<a href="#">Notice on Improving Policies Related to Extra Pre-tax Deductions for Research and Development (R&amp;D) Expenses</a>	MOF, SAT & MOST	Clarifies eligible R&D expenses that can be deducted on a pre-tax basis, including specific definitions for categories such as labor costs, direct input costs, depreciation, amortization, and new product design and testing fees, and sets rules for how to treat qualified tangible R&D expenses (50 percent pre-tax deduction) and intangible assets (150 percent amortization on pre-tax cost).	<b>None:</b> Provides clarification on how companies should handle tax implications of R&D, but does not create any new openings.

## Budget/Debt Issues

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
1/10/14	<a href="#">Announcement on 2012 Central Budget Implementation and the Rectification of Other Issues Concerning Financial Revenue and Expenditure Audits Problem</a>	National Audit Office	Lays out direction of reform in several areas, including the government fund budget management, regional tax incentives adjustment, the state capital operating budget management, and transfer payments management.	<b>Moderate:</b> Clarifies that MOF will explicitly decouple regional development from tax incentives, a step towards addressing discriminatory tax policies. Implementation remains unclear.
1/24/14	<a href="#">Notice on Promoting Government Procurement of Services Related to Budget Management</a>	MOF	Promotes government procurement of services related to budget management.	<b>None:</b> Internal process-related policy that does not directly impact foreign companies.
5/19/14	<a href="#">Measures for the Pilot Program of Issuing and Repaying Local Government Bonds in 2014</a>	MOF	Allows 10 provinces and cities (including Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, and Guangdong) to issue and repay their own local government bonds on a trial basis in 2014.	<b>Limited:</b> Test platforms for reforms that aim to increase financing channels for local governments. While increased use of such debt issuance could help fund infrastructure and construction projects that could benefit foreign companies, direct impact on foreign companies is limited. Additionally, this program is still in a pilot phase.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
6/13/14	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Credit Rating of Local Government Bond Issuance in Pilot Zones in 2014</a>	MOF	Introduces credit rating systems for local government bond-issuance pilots with multiple tiers for credit ratings (AAA to C) and varying lengths (five, seven, or 10 years). 2014 pilot areas include Shanghai, Zhejiang, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shandong, Beijing, Jiangxi, Ningxia, and Qingdao.	<b>Moderate:</b> Represents a relatively significant step towards marketization of the financial system, and a key measure to implement broader issuance and use of local government bonds as a financing channel. This could have important implications for transparency, market reform, and government spending/procurement. While systemic impact is important, direct impact for foreign companies remains limited.
6/13/14	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Information Disclosure of Pilot Local Government Bonds in 2014</a>	MOF	Clarifies information disclosure requirements for local government debt issuance, requiring local finance bureaus in pilot areas to disclose certain information no later than five business days prior to the issuing date of local bonds via a specific website. Required disclosures include basic information about the bonds, the quantity of bonds being issued, issuing date, issuing method, credit rating, and corresponding rating report.	<b>Limited:</b> While these regulations are an important step in defining transparency standards and promoting local government bond issuance in a more market-oriented fashion, the impact for foreign companies is primarily indirect.
12/5/14	<a href="#">Notice on Issues Concerning the Improvement of Government Budget Systems</a>	MOF	Requires local governments to improve their budgeting systems and to ensure that sufficient attention is given to maintaining governmental funds and funds for public services. All local governments are required to comply as of January 1, 2015.	<b>Limited:</b> Promotes better financial management practices in place for local governments, which could have a positive systemic impact by reducing corruption and increasing government solvency, but does not create market-oriented reforms.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
5/27/15	<a href="#">Notice on Giving Full Play to Enterprises' Providing Financial Support to Major Project Construction to Promote Stable and Rapid Economic Development</a>	NDRC	Simplifies the auditing and approval process for enterprises with high credit rankings to issue bonds, and encourages bond issuance to support financing in areas such as strategic industries, electric grid renovations, and innovation demonstration projects. Relaxes requirements on asset-liability ratio for enterprises with a high credit rating.	<u>None</u> : Applies only to a narrow scope of companies, which – based on the sectors included – will not likely include any foreign companies.
6/19/15	<a href="#">Plan on Promoting the Overall Use of Fiscal Funds</a>	State Council	Lays out a ten-point plan for optimizing the use and raising the efficiency of fiscal resources. Includes measures to expedite the review of government projects' budget applications, integrating different investment funds, and regulating the use of various kinds of government income.	<u>None</u> : The plan is focused solely on managing government fiscal funds, and will have no direct or immediate impact on foreign companies.

Other

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
11/27/14	<a href="#">Notice on Continuing to Implement Tax Policies for the Transformation of Publicly Funded Institutions to Private Enterprises</a>	MOF, SAT, Central Propaganda Department	Extends tax incentives for enterprises that have been converted from publicly (government) funded institutions to for-profit cultural institutions through the end of 2018.	<b>None:</b> Primarily targeted at Chinese companies, as it is rare that a foreign company would be formed out of a previously publicly funded institution. No new market access foreign companies granted and no new positive treatment for foreign companies.
4/30/15	<a href="#">Notice on Starting the Campaign for Cleaning up Administrative Charges on Enterprises</a>	MOF, NDRC, MIIT	Cancels fees for businesses that are not based on laws or administrative regulations, but does not provide specific examples of fees. Increases transparency for fees issued by government departments, requiring departments to list on its website all information regarding fee policies that impact companies.	<b>Limited:</b> Fosters a more standardized and predictable tax system. Potentially moderate impact on foreign companies, as it would limit arbitrary fees imposed by local governments and provides companies legal means to challenge fees.
5/5/15	<a href="#">Notice of Republishing the Administrative Fees Collected by the Food and Drug Regulatory Departments</a>	MOF, NDRC	Republishes which departments impose pharmaceutical and medical device registration fees.	<b>None:</b> Impact limited to medical devices and pharmaceutical industry. Though a positive step towards overall transparency, this policy deals only with delineating fee collection, and does not offer any new reform measures.

## X. Corruption, Bribery and Party Discipline

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/13/13	<a href="#">Notice on Banning Extravagant Official Galas</a>	CCP Propaganda Department, MOF, MOC, NAO, SAPPRFT	Prohibits extravagant official galas and punishes those who organize such events. It restricts the use of government funds to hold commercial celebrations or pay for expensive entertainment.	<b>Moderate:</b> While policy would standardize government behavior in line with foreign company international best practices, immediate impact has created uncertainty among local officials that has delayed many economic decisions by local governments.
11/25/13	<a href="#">Regulations on Reducing and Addressing Waste by Party and Government Agencies</a>	CCP, State Council	Requires agencies to reduce unnecessary government expenditures.	<b>Limited:</b> Promotes the central government's efforts to better standardize local budgets, but does not have much direct impact for foreign companies.
12/13/13	Implementation Opinions on Rectifying Improper Practices in Procurement and Sales of Medicines and Medical Services	NHFPC, NDRC, MIIT, MOF	Enacts campaign against improper practices in pharmaceutical sales and medical service.	<b>Limited:</b> Improves transparency in hospital procurement process, but will have a negative impact for companies with drug prescription incentive programs at hospitals.
12/25/13	<a href="#">Provisions on Establishing a Commercial Bribery Blacklist in the Pharmaceutical Industry</a>	NHFPC	Creates new mechanisms to expose companies in the pharmaceutical industry that engage in commercial bribery. All public medical institutions in China will be prohibited for a period of two years from purchasing drugs, medical equipment and medical supplies from enterprises included on the "black list" for more than two within five years.	<b>Limited:</b> Blacklist – when created – would limit corruption in the industry in line with international best practices, but have an impact, both positive and negative, for companies in the healthcare sector and their operating practices.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/31/13	<a href="#">Administrative Measures on Central and State Organs Travel</a>	MOF	Requires government agencies to cut down on waste from business travel expenses of government branches.	<u>Limited</u> : Advances government efforts to reduce corruption and excessive spending.
3/18/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Reducing and Addressing Waste by Party and Government Agencies</a>	State Council	Reduces food and other types of waste for official activities.	<u>Limited</u> : No direct impact for foreign companies, though could have an indirect impact for restaurant and hospitality companies.
4/1/14	<a href="#">Implementation Measures for the Anti-Corruption Punishment and Prevention Work Plan (2013-17)</a>	SASAC	Lays out implementation measures for SASAC's anti-corruption work.	<u>Limited</u> : Addresses both anti-corruption efforts and reforms promoting more accountability by China's SOEs, but only an indirect impact for foreign companies.
4/28/14	<a href="#">Guidance on Anti-Money-Laundering of Securities Companies</a>	SAC	Requires securities companies to establish and improve an internal anti-money laundering control system, which shall include but not be limited to a client identification and risk grading system, a block trade and suspicious transaction reporting system, a client identity materials and trade records retention system, a confidentiality system, a publicity and training system.	<u>Limited</u> : Applies only to securities companies in China, but addresses corruption in the financial services sector.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/21/14	<a href="#">Notice on Further Improving the Public Disclosure Mechanism for a Directory of Administrative Charges</a>	MOF, NDRC	Requires that all administrative charges for publicly funded projects must be recorded in a public directory, and the administrative charges must conform to pre-defined cost standards.	<u>None</u> : While this is a positive transparency step for information disclosure of publicly funded project expenditures, it does not directly eliminate or change administrative charges that foreign companies face.
8/29/14	<a href="#">Implementation of the Proposal for Deepening Reform of the Party's Establishment System</a>	CCP Politburo	Proposes reforms to four aspects of the structure of the CCP: the organizational system, the cadre personnel (HR) system, the basic level system, and the talent development system.	<u>None</u> : One of four party-reform announcements released at CCP Politburo meeting, with no direct impact on foreign companies or market access issues.
1/22/15	<a href="#">Several Opinions on Building and Improving Grain Security by Establishing an Accountability System for Provincial Governors</a>	State Council	Proposes a potential mechanism that assigns responsibility for developing and maintaining a safe, productive, consistent, and capable grain industry to provincial governors.	<u>None</u> : Likely an effort to improve good governance in a critical industry in China by ensuring clear lines of responsibility and reporting. However, this is aimed at government actors, not companies.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/24/15	<a href="#">Provisions on Self-Discipline and Prohibition of Interference in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Approvals</a>	MEP	Prohibits government officials and their relatives from influencing EIA approval processes, and prohibits them from engaging in private business (third-party) EIA projects.	<u>Limited</u> : Positive movement in addressing corruption as an effort to improve environmental protection in ways that could impact foreign companies, but it remains to be seen how strictly these provisions are enforced at different levels of government.
7/15/15	<a href="#">Main Points of the Special Administrative Campaign for the Correction of Unhealthy Tendencies in Medicine Purchase and Sale and Medical Services</a>	NHFPC, NDRC, MIIT, MOF, MOHRSS, MOFCOM, SAT, SAIC, & CFDA	Calls for establishing a price negotiation mechanism for certain drugs, and strengthening the investigation and punishment of tax-related cases for drugs and medical devices manufacturers and operators. Calls for enhancing efforts to fight against cheating and defrauding health insurance funds.	<u>Limited</u> : The main work points are vague and offer no implementing details or timelines. Unclear how these work points will impact the health industry.
01/23/2014	<a href="#">Notice on Implementing Opinion to Further Combat Corruption in Pharmaceutical Sales and Purchasing and Illegal Medical Practices</a>	NHFPC, NDRC and MOF	Tackles corruption in pharmaceutical sales and medical services practices in an effort to reduce artificially high prices of some drugs through means such as addressing invoices, drug prescriptions, and medical ethics.	<u>Moderate</u> : Campaign has potential positive long-term impact for foreign companies, though it raises short-term questions for companies seeking to comply and has caused healthcare companies to adjust their operational practices.

## XI. Urban/Rural Issues

## Urbanization

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/16/14	<a href="#">New National Urbanization Plan (2014-2020)</a>	State Council	Improves regulation of the migration of rural residents into urban areas, with a focus on sustainable infrastructure development and raising living standards.	<b>Significant:</b> Allows rural citizens broader access to urban social services and thus could lead to increased domestic consumption – a step toward rebalancing China's economy and creating market opportunities. Could also encourage controlled migration and provide access to new human resources for a range of foreign companies.
8/4/14	<a href="#">Notice on Further Strengthening the Remaking of Poor Urban Residential Areas</a>	State Council	Provides high-level direction for how Chinese government agencies and stakeholders (such as state-owned enterprises) should promote better infrastructure and conditions in poor urban residential areas.	<b>None:</b> No direct impact on foreign companies or market access conditions, and company participation is focused on domestic companies. There is possibly a limited, indirect impact for companies that support urbanization processes.
2/4/15	<a href="#">Proposal for the Comprehensive Performance of National Pilot Projects for the New Type of Urbanization</a>	NDRC, SCOPSR, MPS, MCA, MOF, MOHRSS, MOHURD, MOA, PBOC, CBRC, SAC	Provides an outline of goals and objectives for a pilot system in 2 provinces (Jiangsu and Anhui) and 62 cities to test different plans for urbanization and hukou reform.	<b>Limited:</b> The proposals are still mainly aspirational, as cities began releasing draft implementation plans only in May. In addition, while reforms are welcomed, they have limited impact on key FIE concerns regarding market access and fair treatment.

## Hukou/Household Registration Reform

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/30/14	<a href="#">State Council Opinions on Further Promoting Household Registration System Reform</a>	State Council	Overhauls China's residency system, establishes a unified household registration system that aligns rural and urban resident benefits based on location of residency instead of location of birth.	<b>Significant:</b> This reform has the potential to boost consumer spending, increase labor mobility, and open new investment opportunities in urban infrastructure – which could benefit foreign companies. Follow-up implementation details needed for impact to be felt broadly. As of July 2015, at least 20 provinces have released implementing opinions on deepening hukou reform. In December 2015, the State Council released provisional regulations clarifying residence permit registration procedures that went into effect on January 2, 2016.
11/20/14	<a href="#">Notice on Adjusting the Criteria for the Classification of City Sizes</a>	State Council	Creates new standards for defining city-level classifications based on number of permanent residents, likely in reference to ongoing hukou reforms.	<b>None:</b> Likely aimed at follow-up legislation for clarifying hukou reform efforts, including where and how people can obtain social services in different jurisdictions. This policy itself does not create any new market openings, but serves to clarify definitions for follow-up policies.

### Other Urban/Rural Policies

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/18/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Land Use to Support the Development of New Industries and New Forms of Business to Promote Public Entrepreneurship and Innovation</a>	MLR, NDRC, MOST, MIIT, MOHURD, and MOFCOM	Defines four measures, including intensifying guarantees for new land supply, encouraging the flexible use of existing land, leading concentrated development of new industries via land use, and perfecting the supervision and administration of new industrial land use.	<b>Limited:</b> Creates some new opportunities for land use to promote new industries, but this does not deal with foreign companies' primary issues--nor is it clear whether foreign companies could benefit directly from these reforms.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/10/13	<a href="#">Notice on Conducting New Rural Medical Cooperative Work in 2013</a>	NHFPC, MOF	Expands pilot areas to allow urban and rural residents to use new rural cooperative fund to buy catastrophic insurance on the basis of the previous reforms.	<u>None</u> : Focused squarely on domestic-driven goals of improving China's government-run social security system.
9/13/13	<a href="#">Opinions on Accelerating the Development of the Pension Services Industry</a>	State Council	Establishes a government-supported, comprehensive pension service industry to cover urban and rural residents before 2020.	<u>None</u> : Focused squarely on domestic-driven goals of improving China's government-run social security system.
3/10/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Comprehensively Deepening Rural Reforms and Accelerating the Modernization of the Agricultural Industry</a>	State Council	Assigns specific ministries and agencies responsibility to various aspects of rural reform, including food security, surveys of agricultural land and activities, better utilization of investment and financial capital, and promotion of agriculture-related services such as insurance.	<u>None</u> : No direct impact for foreign companies as the main target is government agencies, but some indirect impact depending on how projects and goals are implemented.
4/21/14	<a href="#">Pilot Project to Promote the Comprehensive Rural Reform</a>	SAC, MOFCOM	Establishes a set of standards for dealing with asset allocation, infrastructure projects, and services in rural areas	<u>Limited</u> : Reforms limited to rural areas, with no indication of private or foreign participation.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/11/14	<a href="#">Notice on Accelerating the Promotion of Issuing Certification for Residential and Collective Land Use</a>	MLR, MOF, MOHURD, MOA, State Forestry Administration	Provides detailed instructions for how government departments should issue rural land ownership and land usage certification, including instructions for surveying the land in order.	<u>None</u> : No direct impact for foreign companies, though it is an initial step toward granting rural residents land ownership rights.
1/20/15	<a href="#">Notice on Relaxing Conditions for Withdrawals from the Housing Provident Fund for Rent Payments</a>	MOHURD, MOF and PBOC	Relaxes the conditions and amounts individuals can withdraw from the housing provident fund.	<u>None</u> : A social issue related to access to rental housing. No direct impact on foreign companies.

## XII. Other

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/28/13	<a href="#">Opinions on Promoting the Development of Healthcare Services</a>	State Council	Opens investment to private capital and promotes market-based pricing in the healthcare industry.	<u>Limited</u> : Opens some healthcare services to private investment by applying a "negative list" for private investment in these areas – but private capital does not likely include foreign investment. Some indirect impact from more market-oriented pricing for companies in this space.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
11/22/13	<a href="#">Notices on Launching Pilot Carbon Emissions Trade</a>	Beijing Municipal Development and Reform Commission	Launches a pilot carbon trading platform in Beijing.	<u>Limited</u> : Promotes market-based emissions trading programs, but geographic impact limited, and details of how the regime would work are not yet released.
1/3/14	<a href="#">Administrative Measures on Non-Bidding Government Procurement Methods</a>	MOF	Clarifies the circumstances that apply to three different kinds of non-bidding government procurement methods: competitive negotiation, single-source procurement, and price inquiry.	<u>Limited</u> : Advances efforts to promote a more open, fair government procurement system, but minimal in terms of actual change.
3/12/14	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Promoting the Pension Agency Liability Insurance Work</a>	MCA, CIRC and National Office on Aging	Promotes the establishment of the pension agency liability insurance system.	<u>Limited</u> : Impact is limited to the insurance industry, with no clear market openings for foreign companies.
4/8/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Comprehensive Reform to County-level Public Hospitals</a>	MOF	Encourages cross-provincial drug tendering, ensuring drug safety, and lowering drug prices.	<u>Limited</u> : Step forward in applying more transparent procurement practices, but does not directly provide new market access opportunities for foreign companies.
4/9/14	<a href="#">Notice on Issues Concerning the Implementations of Non-public Health Care Sector Market Price</a>	NDRC, NHFPC, MOHRSS	Encourages private capital to enter the healthcare sector, expands the supply of medical services, improves the efficiency of medical services, and promotes development of medical services and orderly competition of the healthcare sector.	<u>Limited</u> : Promotes the role of private capital in the healthcare sector – but private capital does not likely include foreign investment. Some indirect impact of market-oriented pricing for companies in this sector.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
4/29/14	<a href="#">Notice on Extending the Preferential Tax Policy in Support of Entrepreneurship and Employment</a>	MOF, SAT, MHRSS	Grants business startups and employers that are willing to hire the jobless tax breaks as the Chinese central government looks to encourage employment amid the economic slowdown.	<b>Limited:</b> Scope only applies to small businesses, impact limited on MNCs.
5/23/14	<a href="#">Measures to Support the Stable Development of Foreign Trade</a>	GAC	Encourages the establishment of reforms focused on streamlining the customs process, improving the trading environment, improving innovation in services, promoting outbound investment and trade, and establishing a consolidation customs area pilot program in Shanghai. This announcement follows a May 4 announcement from the State Council requiring government agencies to set reform measures to promote stable growth in foreign trade.	<b>Moderate:</b> Measures will not cause immediate impact, but will lay out goals to promote increased trade and development of China's services sector by simplifying administrative procedures. The plan includes a plan to develop a consolidated customs area in the Shanghai Yangshan Bonded Zone.
5/28/14	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions to Support Enterprises and Promote the Stable Growth of Foreign Trade</a>	AQSIQ	Promotes stable growth in foreign trade by easing some inspection controls on exports, promoting imports of key technologies and improving regional cooperation. This announcement follows a May 4 announcement from the State Council requiring government agencies to set reform measures to promote stable growth in foreign trade.	<b>Limited:</b> Although the document covers several cross-cutting reform categories like simplification of inspection and quarantine systems and promoting imports of goods and services, it is vague and generic on prescriptions for achieving reform.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/6/14	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Development of Productive Service Industry to Promote Industrial Restructuring and Upgrading</a>	State Council	Lays out a range of policies designed to promote and support companies in high-tech services industries, including allowing such companies to qualify for HNTE and thus receive a 15 percent tax rate.	<u>Limited:</u> Although recent developments have expanded the range of companies that are eligible to apply for HNTE, it is not clear if, or how, existing market access barriers for foreign companies will be changed. The criteria by which companies can qualify for this status is also unclear, and implementing details are vague.
8/23/14	<a href="#">Interim Regulations on Enterprise Information Disclosure</a>	State Council	Creates an online reporting mechanism that companies must use to disclose information such as registration information, ownership changes, equity pledges, and administrative penalties.	<u>Limited:</u> While increased information disclosure does improve some transparency issues in the market, this regulation does not address market access issues – or core transparency concerns – for foreign companies.
9/9/14	<a href="#">Notice on Implementation for the 2014 Annual Healthcare Reform Key Tasks for Improving Drug Distribution</a>	MOFCOM, MOF, NDRC, MOHRSS, NHFPC, CFDA	Establishes general goals for promoting healthcare reform and drug distribution in China, including encouraged development of independent pharmacies.	<u>Limited:</u> While encouraging the growth of independent pharmacies outside of hospitals could spur significant change in drug distribution channels, the policy remains aspirational in setting goals as opposed to specific policies.
11/20/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Supporting the Healthy Development of Small and Micro Sized Enterprises</a>	State Council	Provides high-level guidance for development of small and micro-sized enterprises engaged in "encouraged" investment projects, including exemption from tariffs for small and micro-sized enterprises that import advanced equipment used that cannot be produced by domestic producers.	<u>Limited:</u> While it could create some opportunities for foreign companies to sell advanced equipment to SMEs, it doesn't address market access openings for foreign companies in any specific industry.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
1/14/15	<a href="#">Notice on Raising the Minimum Standard for Basic Pensions under the National Basic Pension Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents</a>	MOHRSS, MOF	Raises the minimum standard for contribution to basic pensions to RMB 70 (\$11.29) per person per month from the original standard of RMB 55 (\$8.87) per person per month.	<b>None:</b> No new impact on foreign companies.
2/3/15	<a href="#">Notice on Implementing the "Three Mutuals" to Promote Significant Customs Clearance Reforms</a>	State Council	Aims to build an integrated customs clearance system built on the "three mutuals" – mutual information exchange between customs and related ministries, mutually recognized regulations across regions, and mutual aid for law enforcement activities.	<b>Limited:</b> A streamlined port management system would be welcomed by foreign companies, but the notice does not give specifics for implementation. The notice is aspirational in nature, though follow-up regulations in March 2015 provide examples of efforts to promote integration among regional customs clearance procedures.
2/27/15	<a href="#">Government Procurement Law Implementing Regulations</a>	State Council	Regulates government procurement by setting up specific rules for purchasing goods and services, the process for making purchases, the appropriate format for contracts, procedures for complaints, procurement supervision, and legal responsibilities.	<b>Moderate:</b> Clearly states for the first time that products produced in China – even by foreign companies – are domestic. The regulations, however, do not provide more specific details on the definition of "domestic products," including clarifications on inputs and handling IT products.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/12/15	<a href="#">State Council Approval for Setting up the Cross-Border E-commerce Pilot Zone in Hangzhou</a>	State Council	Establishes Hangzhou as the first pilot zone in China for cross-border e-commerce. The zone will be used to test technical standards and business processes for cross-border payment, logistics, customs, and tax rebates pertaining to e-commerce.	<b>None:</b> The pilot zone is still in the planning stage and awaits follow-up details from the Zhejiang provincial government. It is unclear how this zone will benefit foreign companies, since foreign companies often do not have the ability to conduct this type of operation in China given the licensing requirements for e-commerce and e-payments. As such, this appears to benefit only domestic companies.
3/26/15	<a href="#">Reform Plan for Further Improving Standardization Work</a>	State Council	Lays out goals for reform to China's standards system, as well as specific tasks to take place over the next five years in three phases: 2015-2016, 2017-2018, and 2019-2020. The plan streamlines current standards into four categories, with clearer definitions of the type of standards that fall into each category and a required "clean-up" of existing standards to adjust to the new definitions.	<b>Moderate:</b> Includes positive transparency-related language saying that all mandatory national standards must be made available to the public. However, the plan also calls for coordination of standard-setting activities with efforts to promote Chinese companies "going out" and promoting Chinese brands. Policies released in 2015 -- including an August 2015 action plan for work in 2015-2016 -- indicate that work to implement the plan is proceeding, albeit slowly.
3/30/15	<a href="#">Announcement of Customs Clearance Integration Reform in the Silk Road Economic Belt</a>	GAC	Indicates that GAC will start integrated customs clearance procedures across nine provinces along the Silk Road Economic Belt starting May 1. The enterprises in these regions may choose to go through the process of customs declaration, tax payment, and goods examination in the place where the business operators are registered, or where the goods actually enter and exit China.	<b>Limited:</b> Positive integration of and streamlining of customs work, but likely targeted at Chinese companies hoping to take advantage of China's international economic development policy. Geographic scope also limited.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/30/15	<a href="#">Announcement of Customs Clearance Integration Reform in Northeast China</a>	GAC	Indicates that four provinces in northeast China will collaborate on customs clearance procedures starting May 1. All imported and exported goods from companies within the region will enjoy simplified procedures through a regional integrated clearance system, which will require only one customs declaration.	<u>Limited</u> : Positive integration of and streamlining of customs work, but likely targeted at Chinese companies hoping to take advantage of China's international economic development policy. Geographic scope also limited.
5/8/15	<a href="#">Implementing Opinions for Carrying out Comprehensive Reform of County-Level Public Hospitals</a>	State Council	Introduces reform priorities addressing challenges in the hospital system for county-level hospitals. Goals include reducing reliance on drug sales for hospital revenue, and replacing that revenue with service fees and government subsidies.	<u>Limited</u> : Provides better patient access to the healthcare system, but immediate impact on companies may be limited until further changes to the pricing and procurement systems for health products are fully implemented.
5/19/15	<a href="#">Made in China 2025</a>	State Council	Issues an ambitious 10-year plan to enhance the competitiveness of China's manufacturing sector by encouraging innovation and raising efficiency. The plan lists specific targets for industrial energy consumption, carbon dioxide emissions, and water consumption.	<u>Moderate</u> : The national plan includes specific targets that will likely impact companies in multiple sectors. Unclear whether potential preferential policies will be extended to foreign companies. However, language in the plan on rigorous security reviews and shoring up indigenous IP, along with ambiguity about the scale and eligibility of preferential policies, raise concerns about how the plan will impact the competitive landscape. In June 2015, the State Council formed a high-level interagency task force to direct the initiative, but implementing details are still outstanding.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/1/15	<a href="#">Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the "Internet Plus" Action Plan</a>	State Council	Maps development targets and supportive measures – such as preferential finance and tax policies – for key sectors, including manufacturing, agriculture, energy, and finance. Aims to integrate Internet applications with manufacturing to drive economic growth and create new industrial modes by 2018, in line with the national-level "Internet Plus" plan.	<u>Limited</u> : Though "Internet Plus" has the potential to impact a broad swath of industries, this policy is light on detail, with only vague development targets and no specifics about preferential finance and tax policies.
7/21/15	<a href="#">Notice on Permitting Domestic and Foreign Enterprises to Engage in the Production and Sales of Game and Entertainment Devices</a>	MOC	Lifts the ban on the production and sale of game consoles in China.	<u>Limited</u> : Marks a positive step in expanding the opening nationwide, after restrictions were lifted in the Shanghai FTZ last year. Narrow sector impact results in this opening having limited significance, however.
9/21/15	<a href="#">Notice on Issues with Working Proposals for the Thorough Implementation, Integration, and Establishment of Unified Public Resources Trading Platforms</a>	MOF	Requires centralized government procurement institutions to admit other public resource projects into trading platforms, and urges provincial finance departments to accelerate the establishment of government procurement market information sharing databases and mutual verification recognition mechanisms.	<u>None</u> : Process improvements that do not, in practice, make it any easier for foreign companies to participate in government procurement and trading activities.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
10/30/15	<a href="#">Notice on the Temporary Suspension of Fee Collection for Customs IPR Cases</a>	GAC	Suspends Customs' collection of IPR recording as of November 1, 2015, and lays out procedures for companies to receive refunds for some previous payments.	<b>Limited:</b> While this cuts some cost for foreign companies, the IPR filing fee is not a substantial amount.
11/9/15	<a href="#">Guidance on the Establishment of Integrated Standardization System of Cloud Computing</a>	MIIT	Aims to standardize the development of cloud computing. Sections in the guidelines cover hardware, software, networks, services, and security, and draws comparisons to cloud systems in foreign countries.	<b>Limited:</b> The guidelines converge Chinese and foreign standards, which is indirectly useful for foreign cloud providers when setting up services in China, but doesn't significantly impact market access.
11/17/15	<a href="#">EV Charging Infrastructure Construction Guidelines (2015-2020)</a>	NDRC	Aims to standardize electric vehicle charging ports across China.	<b>Moderate:</b> Indirectly addresses market access barriers by helping increase interoperability of vehicles between cities, but impact is limited to the automotive sector.
11/23/15	Guiding Opinions on Implementing Internet Plus Action Plan for Shanghai	Shanghai Government	Opinions on implementing the Internet Plus Action Plan, specific to Shanghai.	<b>Limited:</b> The plan is specific to one area and does not make significant strides in addressing foreign company concerns.
12/5/15	<a href="#">Made in China 2025 Beijing Implementation Plan</a>	State Council	Sets development targets for Beijing and the surrounding area (Jingjinji), with a focus on developing certain IT products, such as high-performance IC chips, software, smart aviation software, "smart cars," high-end chips, and engine control systems.	<b>Moderate:</b> The plan sets specific development targets for a range of industries within one geographic location.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/14/15	<a href="#">MIIT Notice on the Fully Implementation of the State Council Guiding Opinions on Actively Promoting the Internet Plus Action Plan (2015-2018)</a>	MIIT	Calls for the construction of a “secure and reliable” production environment for ICT products, including high-end general chips and software. Language also calls for “secure and reliable” storage systems, desktop computers, external devices, network systems, and basic software. The plan calls for improving the localization rate of high-end smart equipment by 2018, and in the same year calls for breakthroughs in high-performance computing, integrated circuits, intelligent terminals, and security products.	<b>Limited:</b> The notice provides additional details beyond those included within the Internet Plus Action Plan, but details on foreign participation remain unclear. Language in the plan includes calls for "secure and controllable" development of certain industries and sectors, which have been flagged in other draft policies and laws as potentially being protectionist.
12/28/15	<a href="#">2015 MIIT Telecom Services Catalogue</a>	MIIT	Expands the definition and categorization of data centers, and includes specific definitions of various IT products. Is the first update to the MIIT Telecom Services Catalogue since 2003.	<b>Limited:</b> While the catalogue encompasses the technology sector and has far-reaching implications for sectors such as e-commerce, the catalogue does not create additional market access openings for foreign firms.

## Appendix 3: Policy Announcements Related to the Shanghai Free Trade Zone

### I. Overall Reform

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/18/13	<a href="#">State Council Notice on the General Plan for the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone</a>	State Council	Outlines the general provisions for the Shanghai FTZ and highlights sectors opened to foreign investment.	<b>Limited:</b> Opens some areas to foreign investment in financial services, logistics, and other professional services. While this policy made few major changes, follow-up policies in operational areas such as customs clearance and capital flow have implemented some of the zone's plans, and other zones were created using this model. To date, however, companies have seen limited openings from the Shanghai FTZ (and other FTZs) . These factors have limited the positive impact of this policy.
9/17/14	<a href="#">Interim Measures for Administration of Regulatory Information Sharing in Shanghai Free Trade Zone</a>	Shanghai Municipal People's Government	Creates an information-sharing platform for all administrative authorities and organizations with public administration duties in the Shanghai FTZ.	<b>Limited:</b> Measures create a mechanism for improving government transparency and communication that members report has had some impact on the time it takes for some government agencies to make decisions.
12/29/14	<a href="#">Notice on Expanding Shanghai FTZ to Other Areas in Shanghai</a>	Shanghai Municipal Government	Expands the Shanghai FTZ outside its original territory to include the Lujiazui Financial District, the Jinqiao Development Zone, and the Zhangjiang Hi-tech Zone.	<b>Limited:</b> A positive step at introducing Shanghai FTZ reforms more broadly, but the geographic scope remains limited – and as the scope of reforms in the Shanghai FTZ has yet to represent significant progress on core market access issues, the impact remains limited.

## II. Foreign Investment



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/29/13	<a href="#">China (Shanghai) Free Trade Zone Foreign Investment Access Special Management Measures (Negative List) (2013)</a>	Shanghai Municipal Government	Defines specific industry categories restricted to foreign investment in the Shanghai FTZ.	<b>Limited:</b> List is a clear transition to a negative list approach in the Shanghai FTZ, with coverage of a broad range of industries. However, the negative list itself largely restates existing restrictions, and thus represents no major openings to date. In addition, the scope is limited to Shanghai only. Follow-up lists have created some additional openings, but results to date have not achieved the openings desired by foreign industry.
12/21/13	Decision to Temporarily Adjust Relevant Administrative Regulations and Documents in the China (Shanghai) Free Trade Zone	State Council	Reforms foreign investment management models, expands the opening of services sectors, and temporarily adjusts provisions relating to administrative approvals.	<b>Moderate:</b> Reduces administrative requirements for foreign companies establishing operations in the Shanghai FTZ and eases approval requirements for services companies. Impact limited to the Shanghai FTZ.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
1/6/14	<a href="#">Decision on the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free-Trade Zone Interim Adjustments Regarding Administrative Regulations and the Administrative Examination and Approval and Special Management Measures</a>	State Council	Adjusts regulations on foreign investment models, and promotes expansion of the services sector.	<b>Moderate:</b> Temporarily suspends approval requirements for companies registered in the Shanghai FTZ. Impact limited to the Shanghai FTZ.
1/6/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Further Opening up Value-added Telecommunications Services in China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone</a>	MIIT, Shanghai Municipal Government	Further opens seven pilot value-added telecommunications business areas to foreign investors.	<b>Limited:</b> Step forward in increasing market access for foreign telecom companies, but the sectors and areas for openings do not address top company concerns.
4/9/14	<a href="#">Arbitration Rules for the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ)</a>	Shanghai International Economic & Trade Arbitration Commission	Specifies arbitration rules for dispute settlements in the Shanghai FTZ.	<b>Limited:</b> Allows companies across sectors more freedom to select dispute settlement channels, but limited to Shanghai FTZ.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
4/30/14	<a href="#">Notice on Supporting Accounting Firms Setting up Branches and Launching Pilot Work in Shanghai Free Trade Zone (FTZ)</a>	MOF	Supports qualified partnership and limited liability partnership (LLP) accounting firms to establish branch offices in the Shanghai FTZ and allows them to use "Shanghai FTZ" in the names of their branch offices.	<b>Limited:</b> Defines government organizational structure and approval processes for accounting companies in the zone, including handling of applications from major accounting firms and others, but does not create new market opportunities.
6/30/14	<a href="#">China (Shanghai) Free Trade Zone Foreign Investment Access Special Management Measures (Negative List) (2014)</a>	Shanghai Municipal Government	Revises the list of sectors in which foreign investment is prohibited, reducing the number. These revisions are an incremental step forward in China's broad economic reforms, but of limited practical use to foreign companies due to the limited number and geographic scope of the openings.	<b>Limited:</b> The new negative list contains only a limited number of substantive reductions on issues that matter to foreign companies.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/28/14	<a href="#">Decision on Temporary Adjustment and Implementation of Special Administrative Measures on Access Required by Relevant Administrative Provisions and Department Regulations Approved by the State Council in China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone</a>	State Council	Announces 27 new foreign investment openings for sectors that are covered by six industry-specific investment regulations, but the new openings are only applicable to the Shanghai FTZ.	<b>None:</b> The 27 investment openings in the Decision are already open to foreign investors via the 2014 revised Shanghai FTZ negative list.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
2/12/15	<a href="#">Provisional Implementing Details for Prudent Macroeconomic Management of Separate Accounting Services for Overseas Financing and Cross-Border Capital Flows in the China (Shanghai) Free Trade Zone</a>	PBOC	Allows companies within the Shanghai FTZ to raise financing both domestically and from overseas by utilizing special Shanghai FTZ-related bank accounts.	<b>Limited:</b> Positive movement towards allowing companies freer management and better access to capital, regardless of its origin. Geographic scope is limited to Shanghai FTZ.
4/20/15	<a href="#">Notice on Special Administrative Measures for Foreign Investment Access in Free Trade Zones (Negative List)</a>	State Council General Office	Revises China's list of industries off-limits to foreign investment in its four free trade zones. The list does provide additional clarity on 49 industries where foreign companies are not allowed to compete, including banking and natural gas development. The 2015 negative list adds more specific definitions of the restricted industry sectors not included in the 2014 list, helping provide clarity for foreign investors in areas where investment is discouraged.	<b>Moderate:</b> The revisions mirror – but further solidify – a number of existing and approved revisions to national investment catalogues and a proposed new investment law. While this negative list does not break significant new ground, it does cement incremental improvements in several market sectors.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
4/20/15	<a href="#">Pilot Measures for National Security Reviews of Foreign Investment in the Free Trade Zones</a>	State Council General Office	Establishes a mechanism to monitor foreign investment in “sensitive” sectors in the free trade zones. The new model follows the review mechanism outlined in the draft foreign investment law released in early 2015. The measures outline sectors subject to review, agencies responsible for the reviews, procedures for the review, and what factors will be considered in a review.	<b>Moderate:</b> The measures increase transparency in a sensitive area but raise a number of concerns for foreign companies, due to a broad scope of review and windows for inputs from third parties, and the lack of an appeals process to allow for reconsideration.
4/20/15	<a href="#">Plan for Promoting Further Reform and Opening in the China (Shanghai) Free Trade Zone</a>	State Council	Identifies 25 concrete tasks and measures for Shanghai FTZ administrative authorities to better manage investment in the zone, including promoting reform in the foreign investment management system, improving the efficiency of customs management, and improving legal protections.	<b>Limited:</b> While developments in the free trade zones continue to be of interest to foreign companies, this work plan is very high-level and lacks specific details on how the 25 tasks will be achieved. This plan does not address the concerns with the lack of substantive openings in the free trade zone negative list.
4/20/15	<a href="#">Notice of the Overall Plan for the China (Fujian) Free Trade Zone</a>	State Council	Calls for the Fujian FTZ to take the lead in developing free trade with Taiwan, and identifies 16 priority tasks for development of the Fujian FTZ – including promoting openness in the financial sector and improving investment ties with Taiwan in regards to telecom, transportation services, and engineering technology services.	<b>Limited:</b> While developments in the free trade zones continue to be of interest to foreign companies, this work plan is very high-level and lacks specific details on how the 16 tasks will be completed. This plan does not address the concerns with the lack of substantive openings in the free trade zone negative list. The focus of the Fujian FTZ is slotted to promote attracting "foreign" investment from Taiwan, similar to Guangdong province's free trade agreement with Taiwan.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
4/20/15	<a href="#">Notice of the Overall Plan for the China (Tianjin) Free Trade Zone</a>	State Council	Calls for the Tianjin FTZ to set an example for development of the greater Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, and identifies 16 high-level priority tasks for development of the Tianjin FTZ. These tasks include lowering investment access barriers, strengthening international trade service ability, and improving government efficiency in administrative management.	<u>Limited:</u> While developments in the free trade zones continue to be of interest to foreign companies, this work plan is very high-level and lacks specific details on how the 16 tasks will be completed. This plan does not address the concerns with the lack of substantive openings in the free trade zone negative list.
4/20/15	<a href="#">Notice of the Overall Plan for the China (Guangdong) Free Trade Zone</a>	State Council	Identifies 15 high-level priority tasks for development in the Guangdong FTZ. These tasks include strengthening international shipping services, and leading economic transformation in the Pearl River Delta region. The plan also has a stated target of deepening cooperation with Hong Kong and Macau.	<u>Limited:</u> While developments in the free trade zones continue to be of interest to foreign companies, this work plan is very high-level and lacks specific details on how these 15 tasks will be completed. This plan does not address the concerns with the lack of substantive openings in the free trade zone negative list.
4/22/15	<a href="#">Notice on Launching Foreign Currency Services for Free Trade Accounts</a>	PBOC Shanghai	Announces that financial institutions in Shanghai that have free trade zone bank accounts can engage in foreign currency services such as collecting deposits in foreign currencies, originating foreign currency loans, and using foreign currency to make payments directly through their free trade zone account. It also aims to reduce financing costs by allowing companies to raise capital in foreign currency and leave that currency in their free trade zone bank account instead of exchanging it into RMB.	<u>Limited:</u> Represents a step in liberalizing capital controls for companies that have qualified free trade zone bank accounts, but the rules are limited in scope to a small subset of companies providing a small subset of services.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
6/24/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Deepening the Quarantine and Inspection Reforms to Support the Development of Shanghai FTZ</a>	Shanghai Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau	Proposes 24 measures promoting the easing and speeding up of goods through customs, decentralizing administrative licensing, and developing new emerging industries – including e-commerce.	<u>Limited</u> : Reforms apply only to the Shanghai FTZ, limiting geographical scope of impact. Although these measures may lower costs and improve the ease of doing business in the FTZ, the opinions provide no specific implementation details or timelines.
7/21/15	<a href="#">Notice on Implementing Culture Market Administration Policy in Guangdong FTZ, Tianjin FTZ, and Fujian FTZ</a>	MOC	Allows foreign-owned performance brokerage organizations and venue management organizations to provide services in the four FTZs. Allows foreign-owned and -managed performance venues in the four FTZs.	<u>Limited</u> : Opening up the entertainment industry to foreign investment is a positive signal from the Chinese government. But the notice applies only to the FTZs, resulting in limited impact.
8/27/15	<a href="#">Opinions Supporting Innovative Development in Free Trade Zones</a>	MOFCOM	Sets specific goals and measures for China's four FTZs (Shanghai, Guangdong, Fujian, and Tianjin) to promote better internal coordination, upgrade foreign trade, and reduce investment barriers. Specific measures include supporting development of cross-border e-commerce, establishing new pilots in trade settlement, institution of paperless customs clearance and import licensing, decentralization of investment approvals and antitrust activities, and creating some limited investment openings in financial leasing and gas station operation.	<u>Limited</u> : Focuses on some areas important to foreign companies -- including investment liberalization, e-commerce, and trade-related procedures -- with concrete steps. However, the policy creates few new market access openings and remains limited to China's FTZs.

### III. Administrative Licensing and Approval Reform



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
10/1/13	<a href="#">Decision on Temporarily Adjusting Relevant Local Laws and Regulations in the China (Shanghai) Free Trade Zone</a>	Shanghai People's Congress	Suspends local regulations on foreign investment in the Shanghai Free Trade Zone for three years.	<b>Moderate:</b> Suspends local regulations on foreign investment in the Shanghai Free Trade Zone. Impact is broad and touches on a top foreign company issue – but is limited only to Shanghai.
10/21/13	<a href="#">China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Enterprises Registration and Management Provisions</a>	Shanghai Industry and Commerce Bureau	Specifies the registration procedures for foreign companies in the FTZ.	<b>Moderate:</b> Simplifies and shortens approval process for foreign companies – but only in the Shanghai FTZ.
4/30/14	<a href="#">Measures on the Commitment Mechanism for the Inspection Agency Validation and on the Commitment Mechanism for the Measurement Certification</a>	Shanghai Administration of Quality and Technology Supervision	Simplifies the administration approval process for inspection agencies.	<b>Limited:</b> Eases the approval process for companies but in a very limited sector.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
6/30/14	<a href="#">Notice on Implementing Enterprise Registration Reform in Shanghai Free Trade Zone</a>	Shanghai Customs	Removes administrative approvals for registration of certain types of customs-relevant enterprises (declaration agencies and dual-identity enterprises) and eliminates recordation for remote branch offices.	<u>Limited:</u> Impact is limited to a very narrow group of companies.
7/18/14	<a href="#">Provisional Measures for the Shanghai Commercial Financing Pilot Program</a>	Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce, Shanghai Administration of Industry and Commerce	Specifies the conditions and procedures that must be met to establish a commercial financing (non-banking) company.	<u>Limited:</u> While the procedures ease the restrictions for foreign and domestic companies in this space, the scope is limited to Shanghai FTZ currently, and this liberalization effort is specific to only commercial financing companies.
7/24/14	<a href="#">Development Opportunity for Foreign-invested Certification Bodies in Shanghai FTZ</a>	Shanghai Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau	Eliminates several restrictions for foreign certification bodies in the Shanghai FTZ, including eliminating policy restrictions, recordation requirements for foreign certification body representative offices, and approvals for the establishment of non-legal person branch offices.	<u>Limited:</u> The policy represents market openings for foreign certification bodies, but the impact is limited to one sector, and the scope of opening is limited to the Shanghai FTZ.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/16/14	<a href="#">Announcement on Copying and Expanding the Second Batch of Customs Regulatory Service Innovative Mechanisms in Shanghai Free Trade Zone</a>	Shanghai Customs	Expands eight customs pilot regulatory mechanisms from Shanghai FTZ – including reforms to promote paperless customs documentation and promote enterprise information disclosure – to the entire municipality of Shanghai.	<u>Limited:</u> Limited geographic scope, but some process improvements to simplify customs approvals.
6/29/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Speeding Up the Promotion of the "Three-in-One" Registration Process Reform</a>	State Council	Proposes using a new certificate to replace three existing licenses: the business license, certificate of organizational code, and tax registration certificate. Reforms will be tested first in the four FTZs before being rolled out nationwide.	<u>Limited:</u> Reform applies only to the four FTZs, limiting the geographical impact. Simplifying the licensing process will likely make it easier to register a business and reduce costs associated with the licensing process. A September 2015 SAT notice applied the "three-in-one" reforms nationwide, but local implementation remains slow and inconsistent.
7/16/15	<a href="#">Announcement on Simplifying the Examination and Supervision Procedure of Artworks in the Shanghai Free Trade Zone</a>	Shanghai Municipal Government	Waives approval from the Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture, Radio, Film, and TV (ACRFT) to store artwork within the four bonded zones in the Shanghai FTZ. Requires ACRFT to issue a permit only for the exhibition of artworks, both within and outside of the bonded zones.	<u>Limited:</u> Narrow industry and geographic scope means there is likely to be little significant impact on the art industry.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
10/8/15	<a href="#">Announcement on Reforms to Unify Clearances in Special Customs Supervision Zones and Bonded Supervision Areas</a>	GAC	Allows enterprises to independently choose any of the customs clearance approaches such as port clearance, customs transit, and integrated regional customs clearance, and to choose to have inspections carried out in the special areas or ports of entry, unless otherwise required by customs.	<b>Limited:</b> Process improvement that gives greater flexibility in one specific area of company operations, but does not much change the procedures for various customs clearances nor make a major difference for company operations.
12/1/15	<a href="#">Opinions on Deepening Inspection and Quarantine Mode Reforms to Support the Free-Trade-Zones (FTZs)</a>	AQSIQ	Proposes 22 measures in five categories that further simplify administrative procedures, elevate the trade expediency level, support the development of services, and accelerate the construction of interagency communication channels. In particular, the opinions propose establishment of a system that acknowledges third-party inspection results, and encourages third-party inspection institutions to set up branches in FTZs. Additionally, the documents also include measures to waive unnecessary inspections on personal e-commerce orders from abroad, to expedite as well as better manage imports of e-commerce merchandise.	<b>Limited:</b> This opinion takes steps to improve the administrative procedures related to customs and quarantine measures, though remains largely aspirational and limited to companies that operate in the free trade zones.

#### IV. Institutional Reforms

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/26/15	<a href="#">Notice on Deepening Reforms on the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) Food Production License Approval System</a>	Shanghai Food and Drug Administration	Streamlines the food production license process for companies in the Shanghai FTZ by allowing companies to apply for and receive one permit - rather than multiple permits - for different products, and improves licensing steps such as on-site verification.	<b>Limited:</b> Meaningful improvements for food production companies operating in the Shanghai FTZ, but the impact of these changes is still limited by both sector and geography.
11/24/15	<a href="#">Implementation Plan on Accelerating the Joint Development of China (Shanghai) Free Trade Pilot Zone (FTZ) and the Shanghai Zhangjiang National Innovation Demonstration Zone (NIDZ)</a>	Shanghai Municipal Government	Proposes stronger links between the Shanghai FTZ and the Zhangjiang National Innovation Demonstration Zone, with a goal of having the zones have an important global innovative impact by 2030. Specific steps include joint creation of centers focusing on innovative resources allocation, entrepreneurship incubation, technology trade, and technological innovation; pilots in areas such as drug marketing authorization; steps to attract and encourage foreign and domestic R&D activity; and further administrative streamlining.	<b>Limited:</b> Though Shanghai's status as a major center of innovation for foreign companies means that the types of efforts in this plan could create new opportunities, the plan itself is broad with few implementing details.
12/17/15	<a href="#">State Council issued the Several Opinions on Accelerating the Implementation of the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) Strategy</a>	State Council	Accelerates the implementation of the free trade zone strategy. In particular, this opinion calls for further opening the investment market, reforming the foreign capital management system, and optimizing the foreign investment environment. It will push forward the orderly opening up of finance, education, culture, and health industries, as well as lift the foreign investment ban on young and elderly care, construction design,	<b>Moderate:</b> Focuses on some areas important to foreign companies -- including healthcare, finance, and education. However, remains limited to China's FTZs, and the actual implementation rules will determine how effective these reforms are, if taken nationwide.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
			accounting and auditing, trade and logistics, and e-commerce.	
9/29/14	<a href="#">Shanghai Free Trade Zone establishes a "Public Participation Commission"</a>	Shanghai FTZ Administrative Committee	Establishes a "public participation commission" as a new mechanism for creating a market regulator and administrator with a clear delineation of the role of government and industry.	<u>None</u> : There is little detail on this to date and the commission is limited to the Shanghai FTZ. One FIE bank is listed as a member of the commission.

## V. Role of the State and the Market

SOE Reform

None

Private Capital

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
8/21/13	<a href="#">Implementing Plans for the Guiding Opinions on Financial Support for Adjusting and Upgrading the Economic Structure</a>	Shanghai Municipal Government	Promotes various aspects of financial reform in Shanghai, related to the Shanghai FTZ.	<b>None:</b> Encourages innovation and participation of private capital in the financial sector. No direct opening for foreign investment, and private capital does not likely include foreign investment.

## VI. Financial Reforms

### Banking/Interest Rates

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/29/13	<a href="#">Notice on Banking Supervision Issues in China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Area</a>	CBRC	Supports the establishment of non-banking finance companies in FTZ; allows foreign-invested banks to carry out business in the FTZ; encourages private capital to participate in the banking industry of the FTZ; encourages cross-border service and financing in the FTZ.	<b>Limited:</b> Permits foreign-invested banks to carry out business in the FTZ, but direct impact limited to the banking sector.
9/29/13	<a href="#">Notice on Regulation of the Banking Sector in China (Tianjin) Pilot Free Trade Zone</a>	CBRC	Allows qualified private investors to set up private banks, financial leasing companies, consumer finance companies, and other financial institutions in Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone.	<b>Limited:</b> Provides market openings for foreign banks to operate in the Shanghai FTZ, and encourages cross-border investment in financial services and offshore business. Direct impact for the banking sector; indirect impact for others.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
2/26/14	<a href="#">Announcement Lifting Foreign Currency Deposit Rates Caps in the Shanghai FTZ</a>	PBOC	Removes small amount foreign currency deposit interest rate cap in Shanghai FTZ.	<b>Moderate:</b> Allows the market to play a greater role in China's financial system, but the mechanism is narrowly focused.

### Exchange Rate/Foreign Exchange

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
2/18/14	<a href="#">Implementation Opinions on Shanghai Payment Agencies Carrying Out Cross-border RMB Payment Services in Shanghai</a>	PBOC	Allows offshore RMB borrowing in the Shanghai FTZ.	<b>Moderate:</b> Important reform allowing companies registered in the Shanghai FTZ to use RMB in cross-border transactions, and eases the review process for RMB settlement.
2/21/14	<a href="#">Opinions on Promoting Cross-Border RMB Business in the Shanghai FTZ</a>	PBOC	Clarifies operational details for conducting cross-border business in RMB through the Shanghai FTZ.	<b>Moderate:</b> Promotes internationalization of the RMB and eliminates approvals for lenders operating within the Shanghai FTZ.



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
2/28/14	<a href="#">Notice on the Issuance of Foreign Exchange Management Implementation Details to Support the Construction of China (Shanghai) Free Trade Zone</a>	SAFE	Simplifies settlement of current accounts and direct investment foreign exchange registration; relaxes foreign credit and debt management procedures.	<b>Moderate:</b> Reduces regulatory checkpoints for foreign exchange settlements. This policy, originally limited to the Shanghai FTZ, has now been taken nationwide.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
5/21/14	<a href="#">Implementing Rules of the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone for Separate Accounting Business (for Trial Implementation) and the Rules of the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone for the Prudential Management of Risks Relating to Separate Accounting Business</a>	PBOC	Specifies that domestic and foreign currency free trade accounts will be subject to uniform rules and can be opened in separate accounting units in the Shanghai FTZ, while also laying out guidance for managing foreign exchange in the Shanghai FTZ.	<b>Limited:</b> Clarifies that foreign and domestic companies will be subject to equal treatment in setting up foreign currency accounts, but no major change to Shanghai FTZ policies that directly impact foreign firms opening foreign exchange accounts.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
12/17/15	Implementing Rules for Further Promoting the Pilot Foreign Exchange Administration Reform in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone	SAFE (Shanghai Branch)	Implements the willingness exchange settlement system toward the debt funds of FTZ enterprises (excluding financial institutions); simplifies the procedures for current foreign exchange payments; develops the headquarter economy and settlement center; supports the development of RMB and foreign exchange derivatives products and services.	<u>Limited: Allows for some positive developments in foreign exchange management, though limited solely to the Shanghai FTZ and offset by the temporary suspension of several foreign exchange licenses to stem capital outflow.</u>

## Insurance

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/29/13	<a href="#">Notice to Support the Construction of the China (Shanghai) Free Trade Zone</a>	CIRC	Strengthens insurance in China by encouraging foreign-invested specialized health insurance institutions, the development of cross-border RMB-denominated insurance business, outbound investment by health insurance institutions in the FTZ, development of shipping insurance, fostering of social organizations, and innovation in insurance products.	<u>Limited:</u> Moderate importance for insurance industry, with specific mention of openings for foreign-invested specialized health insurance institutions setting up in the FTZ. Impact, however, limited to that sector – and to the FTZ.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
5/19/14	<a href="#">Notice on Further Simplifying Administrative Approval to Support the Development of the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone</a>	CIRC	Allows shipping insurance company operations centers to establish branches in the Shanghai FTZ, and eliminates prior approval requirements for establishing shipping insurance operation centers and reinsurance companies.	<b>Limited:</b> Benefits foreign companies that provide shipping insurance to shipping companies, but impact is limited to the one particular industry.

### Securities and Private Equity

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/29/13	<a href="#">Measures to Support the Shanghai FTZ</a>	CSRC	Allows the founding of an energy trading center in Shanghai; permits qualified individuals and entities in Shanghai FTZ to invest in domestic and foreign securities and futures markets from the Shanghai FTZ; allows foreign parent companies invested in the Shanghai FTZ to issue RMB bonds in the domestic market; permits securities and futures institutions to set up specialized subsidiaries in the Shanghai FTZ; and allows securities and futures institutions to carry out OTC transactions.	<b>Moderate:</b> Creates market openings for companies in various sectors to participate financially in the Shanghai FTZ. Though the opportunities are only offered in Shanghai, many of these services (such as participating in bond markets) can be done nationwide from Shanghai, broadening the impact.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/15/14	<a href="#">Notice on Implementing Opinions for Further Promoting the Healthy Development of Capital Markets</a>	Shanghai Municipal People's Government	Sets broad development goals for Shanghai FTZ capital markets, including increasing foreign equity ownership limits for securities JVs and fund management companies.	<b>Limited:</b> The notice might benefit foreign-invested finance firms, but it lacks implementing details.

## VII. Pricing Reform and Competition Policy

None

## VIII. Rule of Law/Legal and Judicial Reform

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/7/14	<a href="#">Announcement on Allowing Companies in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (Shanghai FTZ) to Conduct Autonomous Supervision</a>	Shanghai Customs	Establishes authority and reporting mechanisms for companies registered within the Shanghai FTZ to self-report legal violations that are discovered by the company. Self-reporting will result in lighter punishment.	<b>Limited:</b> This policy encourages companies to adopt more market-oriented regulatory procedures and contributes to broader legal reforms by establishing leniency rules for companies that self-report. Geographic scope of these reforms, however, is still limited to the Shanghai FTZ.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
7/25/14	<a href="#">Provisions on China (Shanghai) Free Trade Pilot Zone (revised)</a>	Shanghai People's Congress Standing Committee	Sets rules for managing the Shanghai FTZ, replacing a similar set of September 2013 administrative measures. While much of the content is identical, these regulations do include new content on tax reform and creates a transparent, rule-of-law-based legal environment in the zone.	<b>Limited:</b> These provisions appear designed to further codify Shanghai FTZ policies, but do not create new openings for companies and do not have an impact on the "negative list" and market access discussions.
8/7/14	<a href="#">Shanghai FTZ Administrative Commission Notice of a Standardized Document for Legal Examination Rules</a>	Shanghai Municipal People's Government	Provides a standard document to be used for requesting a legal review if a party feels the Shanghai FTZ Administrative Commission violated their legitimate rights and interests, or is acting in an incompatible manner with the requirements of the Shanghai FTZ.	<b>Limited:</b> While it does not create new market opportunities, it does represent a small positive step for improving rule of law and judicial reform in the Shanghai FTZ.
8/7/14	<a href="#">Implementation Measures for Concentration of Administrative Reconsideration Rights</a>	Shanghai Municipal People's Government	Provides a legal basis for parties that feel the Shanghai FTZ Administrative Commission has violated their legitimate rights and interests to pursue legal action against the government.	<b>Limited:</b> While it does not create new market opportunities, it does represent a small positive step for improving rule of law and judicial reform in the Shanghai FTZ.
9/26/14	<a href="#">Shanghai FTZ Administrative Committee Establishes New IP Bureau</a>	Shanghai FTZ Administrative Committee	Establishes IP Bureau in Shanghai FTZ to unify and strengthen protection over patents, trademarks, and copyrights.	<b>Limited:</b> While this creates a new mechanism that could strengthen IP protection, the bureau has not taken any actions as of yet.

## IX. Taxation and Budget

## Taxation

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
10/24/13	<a href="#">Notice on Tariff Policy for Imports in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone</a>	MOF, GAC, SAT	Exempts producers in the FTZ from import duties when they import required machinery, equipment and other goods. However, the imported goods of consumer service enterprises and other enterprises, as well as goods that legal and administrative regulations and relevant provisions explicitly exclude are not included in this duty-exempt category.	<b>Limited:</b> Provides tax exemptions for a subset of companies, but does not apply to all industries – and only applies to companies producing in the Shanghai FTZ.
12/2/13	<a href="#">Notice on Issues Concerning Policies for Enterprise Income Tax on Outbound Investment with Non-monetary Assets or Asset Restructuring Transactions in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ)</a>	MOF, SAT	Allows enterprises registered in Shanghai FTZ to pay enterprise income tax (EIT) in installments over five years dating from confirmation of gains from the transfer of non-monetary assets.	<b>Moderate:</b> Broad sector impact on companies, but limited only to one area of operations and applicable only to companies registered to the Shanghai FTZ.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
1/30/15	<a href="#">Organization Code Fee Exemption for Small- and Micro-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the Shanghai FTZ</a>	Shanghai Government	Exempts SMEs in the Shanghai FTZ from a RMB 120 (\$19) handling fee for organization code certification.	<u>Limited:</u> Likely aimed at supporting domestic companies, with limited impact for small foreign companies that do business in the Shanghai FTZ.
6/8/15	<a href="#">Notice of the Policies Regarding Import Tax Revenues in Guangdong, Tianjin and Fujian FTZs</a>	MOF, GAC, SAT	Expands pilot tax policies in the Shanghai FTZ to Guangdong, Tianjin, and Fujian FTZs. Launches a selective tariff policy pilot program, allowing companies that sell goods in China that are produced in the FTZ to pay taxes on either the product's materials or its final product condition when going through inspections.	<u>Limited:</u> The policy gives enterprises greater discretion on how to pay their taxes. Scope of reform is limited to the four free trade zones. The tax policy is narrow in industry scope, applying tax exemptions only on machines and equipment.

#### Budget/Debt Issues

None

#### **X. Corruption, Bribery and Party Discipline**

None

#### **XI. Urban/Rural Issues**

None

#### **XII. Other**



Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
3/6/14	<a href="#">Measures on Corporate Annual Reporting Public Disclosure (Trial) and the Business Abnormal Operation Directory Management (Trial)</a>	Shanghai Administration of Industry and Commerce	Sets rules to ease the annual corporate reporting process, as well as rules to govern companies with "abnormal operations" – those that have previously failed to meet reporting requirements.	<b>Limited:</b> Measures allow foreign and domestic companies to file reports online and increase overall transparency, but it only applies to companies in the Shanghai FTZ.
6/30/14	<a href="#">Notice on Including Enterprise Customs Registration into the "Single Window" of Enterprise Access in Shanghai Free Trade Zone</a>	Shanghai Customs	Streamlines enterprise customs registration into the "single window" of enterprise access where all authorities (includes authorities of administration of industry and commerce, taxation, quality inspection, commission of commerce, and customs) work jointly.	<b>Limited:</b> While these efforts are important for streamlining administrative approvals, creating a unified window does not ease the administrative burdens that companies face in customs clearance.
6/30/14	<a href="#">Notice on Enterprise Credit Information Disclosure in Shanghai Free Trade Zone</a>	Shanghai Customs	Specifies information disclosure content, channel, and related issues regarding the application of credit certificate.	<b>Limited:</b> This is purely a process improvement in the customs process.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
6/30/14	<a href="#">Notice on Implementing a Pilot for Company Coordination in Shanghai Free Trade Zone</a>	Shanghai Customs	Requires pilot companies to appoint executives who are responsible for customs-related affairs to handle daily contact with customs industry coordinator.	<u>None</u> : This policy does not have any real positive benefit for top company concerns with customs.
6/30/14	<a href="#">Notice on Promoting the Customs "Certified Operators" Mutual Recognition in Shanghai Free Trade Zone</a>	Shanghai Customs	Specifies policies to facilitate customs procedures for enterprises from Singapore, North Korea, and Hong Kong.	<u>None</u> : Impact of these policies is purely limited to foreign companies from those regions, which means no impact on companies from the United States.
8/12/14	<a href="#">Pilot Opinions on Comprehensive Land Use Planning and Land Management in the Shanghai Free Trade Zone</a>	Shanghai City Planning Land Resource Bureau, Shanghai Free Trade Zone Administrative Committee	Allows for reserved industrial-use land in Shanghai FTZ to be purchased by companies and developed for commercial purposes, such as creating office space.	<u>None</u> : The opinions are intended to create more available office space in the Shanghai FTZ, where the majority of the limited land available was reserved for industrial purposes. The Shanghai FTZ negative list restricts foreign investment in high-class office buildings, so no impact for FIEs.
12/4/14	<a href="#">Administrative Measures for Customs Clearance Bank Accounts in Shanghai FTZ</a>	GAC, Shanghai Municipal Government	Allows enterprises established in Shanghai FTZ to create a customs clearance payment debit account. The account can be automatically debited for tariffs owed post-delivery of products.	<u>Limited</u> : Has the potential to impact companies in a wide variety of industries that import products, whether for assembly, final use, or resale. A positive step at streamlining the customs clearance process, but is limited only to the Shanghai FTZ.

Date	Policy Title/Link	Agency/ Agencies	Summary	Impact
9/6/15	<a href="#">Provisions on Accelerating the Integration and Optimization of Special Customs Supervision Areas</a>	State Council	Sets out core trends in the development of special customs supervision areas in the future; aims to integrate existing special customs supervision areas, optimize policies and functions of government, and enhance supervision and control.	<b>Limited:</b> Describes goals to better integrate customs regulation, boost customs supervision, and combine existing zones (such as export processing zones, bonded zones, cross-border industrial zones) and others into comprehensive free-trade zones. The plan includes high-level goals, but no implementation details.

## Appendix 4: Abbreviations for Chinese Government Agencies

This list includes the full names for the Chinese official ministries, agencies, and organizations listed in Appendices 2 and 3.

AQSIQ	General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine
CBRC	China Banking Regulatory Commission
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CFDA	China Food and Drug Administration
CIRC	China Insurance Regulatory Commission
CSRC	China Securities Regulatory Commission
GAC	General Administration of Customs
MCA	Ministry of Civil Affairs
MEP	Ministry of Environmental Protection
MHRSS	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
MIIT	Ministry of Industry and Information Technology
MLR	Ministry of Land Resources
MOC	Ministry of Culture
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOFCOM	Ministry of Commerce
MOHURD	Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
NAO	National Audit Office
NDRC	National Development and Reform Commission
NEA	National Energy Administration

NHFPC	National Health and Family Planning Commission
NPC	National People's Congress
PBOC	People's Bank of China
SAC	Standardization Administration of China
SAFE	State Administration of Foreign Exchange
SAIC	State Administration of Industry and Commerce
SAPPRFT	State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television
SASAC	State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission
SAT	State Administration of Taxation