



State Fire Fighting Service  
Ministry of Internal Affairs of the  
Republic of Tajikistan



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



## Tajikistan State Fire Fighting Service and IFC Work Together to Streamline Fire Inspections Procedures and Reduce Administrative Burden for SMEs

**Dushanbe, February, 16, 2007.** The Central Directorate of the State Fire Fighting Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the RT and International Finance Corporation (IFC), with financial support from the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), hosted a National Conference on Fire Prevention Rules for small entrepreneurs working at markets throughout Tajikistan. The conference took place at the National Patent and Information Center of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade in Dushanbe. Among the speakers were the Heads of departments of Fire Fighting Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Head of TojikGaz, the Head of Energy Supervision Department of the Ministry of Energy, and the Head of the State Security Council.

The goal of the conference was to educate entrepreneurs about effective fire prevention measures and changes to fire inspection procedures resulting from the Inspections Law adopted by the government of Tajikistan in summer 2006. Following the adoption of the Inspections Law, the State Fire Fighting Service, with advisory assistance from IFC, began a public awareness campaign on fire prevention measures and inspection rules. Two out of ten Fire prevention posters were installed on major markets in the cities of Dushanbe and Vahdat. In addition, conferences on fire prevention measures and inspection rules were organized in hospitals, boarding schools and other facilities that provide social services. The National Conference was the next important step in streamlining fire inspections procedures and reducing administrative burden for SMEs, according to Andrea Dall'Olio, Project Manager of IFC's Business Enabling Environment / Small and Medium Enterprises Policy project in Tajikistan.

"As a result of our collaboration with the State Fire Fighting Service, a year from now we hope to have more effective fire inspections," Dall'Olio said.

According to General N.Djangiev, Head of the Central Directorate of the State Fire Fighting Service, 65 fires occurred in the retail trade sector in 2006. Nearly 2000 entrepreneurs suffered as a result. "Among the reasons for the fires are short circuits in hand-made heating devices that are widely used on the markets. People use these dangerous non-certified devices because of insufficient legal awareness on fire inspection procedures," he explained.

Dall'Olio anticipates that the introduction of new checklists, which are sector specific, easy to read and contain a list of suggested questions entrepreneurs should be asking fire inspection officials during the inspection process, will result in a better understanding of inspection rules among entrepreneurs, and will ultimately increase the transparency of the regulations. "We are happy to see that the State Fire Fighting Service will be the first agency in Tajikistan to introduce this change," Dall'Olio said.

**The International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, promotes open and competitive markets in developing countries. IFC supports sustainable private sector companies and other partners in generating productive jobs and delivering basic services, so that people have opportunities to escape poverty and improve their lives. Through FY06, IFC Financial Products has committed more than \$56 billion in funding for private sector investments and mobilized an additional \$25 billion in syndications for 3,531 companies in 140 developing countries. IFC Advisory Services and donor partners have provided more than \$1 billion in program support to build small enterprises, to accelerate private participation in infrastructure, to improve the business enabling environment, to increase access to finance, and to strengthen environmental and social sustainability. For more information, please visit [www.ifc.org](http://www.ifc.org)

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