

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PAWNBROKER  
BUSINESS LICENSE REGULATIONS, pursuant to 4 CMC § 5651**

**CONTENTS: PROPOSED PAWNBROKER BUSINESS LICENSE REGULATIONS**

**PAWNBROKER BUSINESS LICENSE REGULATIONS**  
(see attached proposed regulation)

**COPIES OF REGULATIONS:** The proposed Pawnbroker Business License Regulations are published in the Commonwealth Register. Copies of the proposed regulation may be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Caller Box 10007, Donni Hill Complex, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** All interested persons may submit written data, views, or arguments about the proposed regulation to the Secretary, Department of Commerce, Caller Box 10007, Donni Hill Complex, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, not later than thirty (30) days from the date of this publication in the Commonwealth Register.

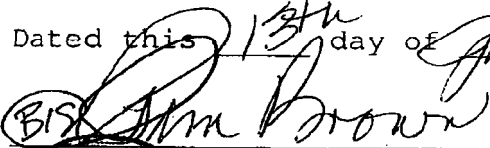
**AUTHORITY:** The Department of Commerce is authorized to promulgate regulations pursuant to 1 CMC §§ 2454, 9104, 4 CMC § 5651.

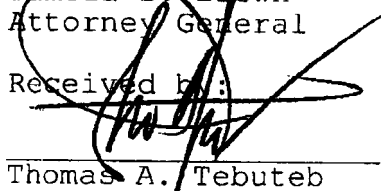
Issued by:   
Fermin M. Atang, Sec'y of Commerce

12/15/03  
Date

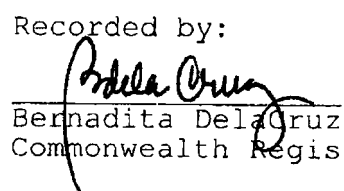
Pursuant to 1 CMC § 2153, the rules and regulations attached hereto have been reviewed as to form and sufficiency and approved by the CNMI Attorney General's Office.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2003.

  
Pamela S. Brown  
Attorney General

Received by:   
Thomas A. Tebuteb  
SAA

1/13/04  
Date

Recorded by:   
Bernadita Delacruz  
Commonwealth Register

1-13-04  
Date

**PROPOSED PAWNBROKER BUSINESS LICENSE  
REGULATIONS, pursuant to 4 CMC § 5651**

Citation of Statutory Authority: 1 CMC § 2454 modified by Exec. Order 94-3 (effective 8/23/94) authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Commerce to promulgate regulations over matters which the Department has jurisdiction.

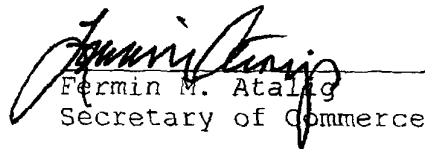
Statement of Goals/Objectives: The purpose of the new proposed regulation is to provide for the regulation of Pawnbroker Business Licenses which is specifically provided for in 4 CMC § 5651.

Brief Summary of the Regulation: The regulation provides for the regulating of the requirements to obtain a Pawnbroker Business License; to include, but not limited to, license fees, police clearances, threshold financial assets requirements, etc.

Contact Person(s): Lillian M. Pangelinan; Banking Administrator; (670) 664-3008.

Citation of Related and/or Affected Statutes, Regulations and Orders: 4 CMC §§ 5641, *et seq.*

Date: Dec. 15, 2003.

  
Fermin M. Atala  
Secretary of Commerce

**NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU PUT I INTENSION PARA U  
MA ADOPTA I REGULASION SIHA PUT PAWBROKER BUSINESS  
LICENSES, pursuant to 4 CMC § 5651**

**SUHETU: PAWBROKER BUSINESS LICENSE REGULATIONS**

**PAWBROKER BUSINESS LICENSE REGULATIONS**

(atat i manche'che'tpn ni man ma proponi na regulasion)

**KOPIAN I REGULASION SIHA:** I man ma proponi na regulasion put i Lain Pawnbroker Business Licenses ma pupblisa gi Rehistran i Commonwealth. Sina ma chule i kopian i regulasion siha ni man ma proponi gi Dipattamenton i Commerce giya Capitol Hill, pat tugi'e i Ofisina ya un rikuesta gi Caller Box 10007, Donni Hill Complex, capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

**KOMENTUN PUBLIKU:** I man enterasau na petsona put i man ma proponi na regulasion, sina ma tugi'e i Dipattamenton i Commerce giya Capitol Hill, menos di trenta (30) dihas despues di munhayun ma pupblisa i fine'nena na Noticia gi Rehistran i Commonwealth.

**ATURIDAT:** I Dipattamenton i Commerce ma aturisa para u establisi Regulasion sigun i 1 CMC §§ 2454, 9104, 4 CMC § 5651.

Linaknos: *Fermin M. Atalig*  
Fermin M. Atalig, Sec'y of Commerce

*12/15/03*  
Fecha

Sigun i 1 CMC § 2153, i areklamento yan regulasion siha ni man checheton man ma ribisa put para u fotma yan sufisiente yan man ma aprueba ginen i Ofisinan Abugado Henerat i CNMI.

Ma fecha este mina \_\_\_\_\_ na diha gi \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

Pamela S. Brown  
Abugado Henerat

Ma Risi: *Thomas A. Tebuteb*

Thomas A. Tebuteb  
SAA

*1/13/04*  
Date

Rinikot as:

*Bernadita Delacruz*  
Bernadita Delacruz  
Commonwealth Register

*1-13-04*  
Date

# PAWNBROKER BUSINESS LICENSE REGULATIONS

## Section 1. Definitions.

For purposes of this Section:

“Applicant” means the individual or business entity *applying to the Secretary of Commerce for a license.*

“License” means the authority to operate a pawnshop as issued by the Secretary.

“Licensee” means *the individual or business entity who has been issued a license by the Secretary.*

“Pawnbroker” shall have the same meaning ascribed to that term in Section 5941 of the Pawnbrokers Act of 1998.

“Pledger” means any person who has pledged tangible personal property as collateral for a pawn loan.

“Principal party” means any officer or director of a pawnshop or a corporation that owns or seeks to own a pawnshop; any shareholder or member owning 10% or more of the outstanding stock or membership interests of a pawnshop or a business entity that owns or seeks to own a pawnshop; or any partner that is a pawnshop or that owns or seeks to own a pawnshop.

“Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce or his designee.

## Section 2. Application for License.

a) Requirement, where to file. Section 5642 of the Pawnbrokers Act of 1998 provides that it is unlawful to operate as a pawnbroker without first obtaining a license from the Secretary of Commerce. All requests for an application package must be directed to the Banking Section, Department of Commerce, Caller Box 10007 PMB, Saipan, MP 96950. A separate license is required for each pawnshop location.

b) Instructions, contents. An application for a license must be submitted on the form prescribed in Section 6 of these regulations. An application for a license shall be made under oath and state the full name and address of the applicant together with any other relevant information the Secretary may require. The application shall also include a Disclosure Statement as to the Principal Parties to the License Application, to include the full name and place of residence of each person involved in the ownership interests of the pawnshop, and police clearances for each employee and prospective employee (prior to employment) showing no record of crimes of false statements, dishonesty, or theft offenses.

### Section 3. Standards for Licensing.

Unless otherwise authorized by the Secretary, in order to be eligible to operate a pawnshop, each applicant and principal party must:

- a) If an individual, be eighteen years of age or older; and,
- b) not have been convicted of a felony or of any criminal offense relating to dishonesty or breach of trust in connection with the operations of a pawnshop; and,
- c) possess the character and general fitness necessary to warrant belief that the business will be operated in a lawful and fair manner.

### Section 4. Change in Control or Form of Ownership, Change in Location, Change in Name of Pawnshop, Voluntary Surrender of License; Fees.

a) **Change in Control or Form of Ownership.** An License Application must be filed, by the acquiring party, not less than 30 days prior to the anticipated change in control or change in the form of ownership of a pawnshop. As used in this Section, "control" means a change involving the sale of a pawnshop; the addition or elimination of any general or limited partner; or a 10 percent or more change in ownership of the outstanding stock, or membership interest, of a corporation that owns a pawnshop. A change in the form of ownership is considered to be a change from one type of business entity to another type of business entity (e.g., sole proprietorship to a corporation, partnership to sole proprietorship, etc.). The License Application must be submitted on the form prescribed in Section 6 of this Part. No change in control or form of ownership shall occur until approved by the Secretary. The Secretary may prohibit a change in control or form of ownership from occurring if the licensee does not meet the license standards set forth in Section 3 of these regulations.

b) **Gift, Bequest, Inheritance, or Foreclosure.** Any person who, by gift, bequest, inheritance, or foreclosure, acquires ownership rights to an existing pawnshop or ownership rights in a company that controls an existing pawnshop such that these ownership rights would constitute "control" of the pawnshop, is considered a change in control or form of ownership and requires the filing of a New License Application.

c) **Change in Location.** An application to change the location of a pawnshop must be filed not less than 30 days prior to the anticipated date of relocation. The application form shall be the New License Application form prescribed by the Secretary, at Section 6. If the only change to the pawnshop is its location, the New Application need only include: the present name and address of the licensed pawnshop, the address and phone number of the proposed new location, the anticipated date of relocation, a list of the addresses of all pledgers with open pawn loans, and a sample copy of the written notice that shall be provided to the pledgers of open pawn loans. No relocation of a pawnshop may occur until approved by the Secretary.

d) **Change in Name of Pawnshop.** Prior to the change in the name of a pawnshop, the licensee shall provide written notice to the Secretary, not less than 30 days prior to the anticipated change, and pay the applicable fee, as established by the Pawnbrokers Act of 1998. Upon receipt of the written notice and applicable fee, the Secretary shall issue a new license. At such time, the licensee must surrender its former license to the Secretary. The Change In Name Fee is \$50.

e) **Voluntary Surrender of License.** Prior to the voluntary surrender of a license, the licensee shall provide not less than 60 days written notice to the Secretary. The licensee shall also provide the Secretary names and addresses of all pledgers with open pawn loans and their last known mailing addresses, along with providing notice to the pledgers with open pawn loans in two consecutive weekly issues of a local newspaper of general circulation.

Section 5. Display of License.

The license must be conspicuously displayed for public view at the place of business provided on the license.

Section 6. Monthly Reports; Request for Information.

a) The Licensee shall, as a condition of obtaining and renewing the Pawnbroker License, file a monthly report on or before the last day of each month for the month preceding the report. If the last day of the month falls on a Non-CNMI Government workday (weekends, holidays, typhoon days, etc.), the report shall be due on the next CNMI Government workday. In the event the report is filed after the fifth day of the month, for the month preceding the report, the Licensee shall pay a late fee of \$5.00 dollars daily starting on the sixth day of the month for each day of the month which the report is late for the preceding month. The monthly report shall include the following:

- (i) Printed Name and signature of the person to whom the loan is made;
- (ii) Complete Description of the property pledged;
- (iii) The amount loaned; and,
- (iv) any other necessary information prescribed by form by the Secretary.

b) Upon request, a licensee shall furnish or mail within 24 hours to the department, on such forms as are provided by the department full, true, and correct copies of the Licensee's records of all requested transactions, required under 4 CMC § 5643.

Section 7. License Application Forms.

The Secretary or his designee shall provide for the New License Application Forms at no cost to all interested applicants, and current licenseholders.