

**BELIZE:**

**DESIGNATED PROCESSING AREAS (AMENDMENT)  
REGULATIONS, 2025**

**ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS**

1. Citation.
2. Amendment of regulation 2.
3. Amendment of regulation 5.
4. Insertion of new regulation 5A.
5. Amendment of regulation 7.
6. Amendment of regulation 8.
7. Insertion of new regulation 8A.
8. Amendment of regulation 9.
9. Amendment of regulation 10.
10. Insertion of new Part VI.
11. Amendment of Schedule I.
12. Amendment of Schedule II.
13. Amendment of Schedule III.

**BELIZE:**

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENT**

**No. 122 of 2025**

*REGULATIONS made by the Designated Processing Areas Committee with the approval of the Minister responsible for designated processing areas in exercise of the power conferred upon it by section 31 of the Designated Processing Areas Act, Chapter 280 of the Laws of Belize Revised Edition 2020, and all other powers thereunto it enabling.*

*(Gazetted 3rd September, 2025).*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

Citation.

**DESIGNATED PROCESSING AREAS  
(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2025**

and shall be read and construed as one with the Designated Processing Areas Regulations, which are hereinafter referred to as the principal Regulations.

Sub. Leg, 2020  
Edn. CAP.  
280. p.31

2. Regulation 2 of the principal Regulations is amended by–

Amendment of  
regulation 2.

(a) inserting the following definition in its proper alphabetical sequence–

“CAP. 104. “beneficial owner” has the meaning assigned to it under the Money Laundering and Terrorism Prevention Act;”;

(b) repealing the definition of “Industrial roof space” and replacing it with the following–

“Industrial roof space” means space dedicated to the factory, administrative offices, garages, platforms, sheds, containers, corridors, and other areas of an approved company, and excludes space that contains a cafeteria or lounge for employees, daycare facilities or a space used solely to produce renewable energy.”; and

(c) repealing the definition of “intimately related to the approved activities”.

Amendment of  
Regulation 5.

3. Regulation 5 of the principal Regulations is amended—

(a) in sub-section (2) by—

(i) inserting after paragraph (a), the following new paragraph—

“(aa) proof that the company is incorporated under the Belize Companies Act;” and

(ii) in paragraph (c), by deleting the words “processing fees” and substituting the words “approval fee”; and

(b) by inserting after sub-regulation (6), the following new sub-regulation—

“(7) This regulation shall not apply to an application for a DPA status to conduct an activity within the national priority sector, Special Border Entertainment Zone.”.

No. 11 of 2022.

4. The principal Regulations are amended by inserting after regulation 5, the following new regulation—

Insertion of of new Regulation 5A.

“Removal or transfer of a non-controlled item.

5A.—(1) An approved company that desires to remove or transfer a non-controlled item shall apply, in writing, to the DPAC in the approved form.

(2) An application under sub-regulation (1), may be approved or refused by the DPAC, and where the application is approved, the DPAC shall notify the company, in writing, outlining the conditions for the removal or transfer.

(3) Where an application under sub-regulation (1) is refused, the DPAC shall give reasons for its decision, in writing.”

5. Regulation 7 of the principal Regulations is amended—

Amendment of Regulation 7.

- (a) in sub-regulation (1), by deleting the words “ninety (90) days” and substituting the words “one hundred and twenty days”;
- (b) in sub-regulation (4), by deleting the words “two months” and substituting the words “forty-five days”;
- (c) in sub-regulation (5), by deleting the words “an additional two months” and substituting the words “a further forty-five days”;
- (d) in sub-regulation (6), by inserting the words “in the form specified by the DPAC” and substituting the words “within one month after the end of every quarter.”;

- (e) in sub-regulation (7), by inserting after the words “financial statement”, the words “, in the approved form” ; and
- (f) by inserting after sub-regulation (7), the following new sub-regulation–

“(8) The records and audited financial statements of an approved company submitted to the DPAC Secretariat under this regulation, shall contain only those records and accounts of the approved company that relate to the approved activities.”.

**Amendment of  
Regulation 8.**

**6. Regulation 8 of the principal Regulations is amended–**

- (a) in sub-regulation (1)(f), by inserting after the words “that is”, the word “being”;
- (b) in sub-regulation (2), by deleting the words “certificates of incorporation” and substituting the words “constitutional documents”;
- (c) in sub-regulation (3), by deleting the phrase “ninety (90)” and substituting the phrase “thirty”; and
- (d) by inserting after sub-regulation (4), the following new sub-regulation (4)–

“(5) A benefit granted on a transport vehicle shall be in relation to a vehicle that is–

- (a) registered to carry a minimum of ten passengers;
- (b) less than five years old from the date of manufacture; and

- (c) not a salvaged vehicle; or
- (d) a utility vehicle.”.

7. The principal Regulations are amended by inserting after regulation 8, the following new regulation –

Insertion of new Regulation 8A.

“Procedure for grant of benefit for research and development.

**8A.**–(1) A request to the DPAC for benefits in relation to equipment, machinery, packaging, labels, or raw materials, to be used for research and development shall include a–

- (a) letter requesting permission to conduct research and development in a particular area;
- (b) letter to the Department of the Environment and the Central Building Authority, informing them of the intent to conduct the particular activity;
- (c) list of the non-controlled items required for the activity or proposed activity;
- (d) a brief description of the goods or services to be researched or developed; and
- (e) any other information as required by the DPAC.

(2) Any benefit granted under this regulation shall be for a period of one year and may be extended for a period of not more than six months.

(3) An approved company granted any benefit under this regulation shall include in its quarterly reports any relevant information pertaining to the progress of the research and development undertaken.

(4) The final quarterly report shall include relevant information on whether the research and development shall result in the production of any item.

(5) Any item produced as a result of the research and development, shall not be sold or distributed commercially, unless with written permission of the DPAC and after compliance with any conditions for the sale or distribution.”.

**Amendment of  
Regulation 9.**

**8. Regulation 9 of the principal Regulations is amended by–**

(a) inserting after sub-regulation (3), the following new sub-regulation–

“(3A) Where a company fails to pay a fine within fifteen working days after the issue of a notice under sub-regulation (2), the company shall be liable to a further fine for every day the fine remains outstanding, for up to fifteen working days.”; and

(b) repealing sub-regulation 4 and replacing it with the following–

“(4) Where a company issued a notice under sub-regulation (2), fails to pay the penalty prescribed within the period stipulated under sub-regulations (3) and (3A), the company shall be liable to have its DPA status suspended.”.

**9.** Regulation 10 of the principal Regulations is amended by inserting after sub-regulation (1), the following new sub-regulations–

Amendment of Regulation 10.

“(1A) An approved company shall pay the industrial roof space fee within ten working days of issue of notice of instruction for payment from the Ministry.

(1B) An approved company that contravenes or fails to comply with sub-regulation (2), within the stipulated period, shall be liable to the administrative penalty outlined in Schedule II.”.

**10.** The principal Regulations are amended by inserting after regulation 10, the following new Part–

Insertion of new Part VI.

## “PART VI

### *Miscellaneous*

“Foreign companies.

**11.**–(1) An approved company that is a foreign company shall submit, annually, a list of all shareholders and beneficial owners of the company, which list shall be certified via apostille and addressed to the Ministry.

(2) An approved company that contravenes or fails to comply with sub-regulation (1), shall be liable to the administrative penalty outlined in Schedule II.

**12.**–(1) In compliance with obligations outlined under sections 12(e) and 13(b) of the Act, and subject to sub-regulation (2), every DPA Developer or Special DPA shall ensure that the perimeter of the DPA is adequately fenced or secured.

Fencing and control of DPA.

(2) Where based on a request by a DPA Developer or Special DPA, it is determined by the Ministry that due to the terrain of any DPA property or part of any DPA property, it is not practicable or possible to fence the DPA property or part of the DPA property, the Ministry shall outline conditions, in writing, for the safety, control or security of the DPA property or part thereof.

(3) Conditions outlined by the Ministry under sub-regulation (2) may include the provision of—

- (a) an electronic security system;
- (b) barriers; or
- (c) security guards,

on the part of the DPA property that is determined to be impracticable or impossible to fence.”.

Amendment of  
Schedule I.

**11.** The principal Regulations are amended by repealing Schedule I and replacing it with the following—

“SCHEDULE I  
THE NATIONAL PRIORITY SECTORS  
[regulation 3]

1. Agro-processing
2. Aquaculture
3. Global Digital Services including—
  - a. Data Processing; or
  - b. Information Technology Enabled Services
4. Manufacturing

5. Developer of an Industrial or Business Park
6. Special Border Entertainment Zone at the Belize Mexican Border (Santa Elena Corozal)".

12. The principal Regulations are amended by repealing Schedule II and replacing it with the following–

Amendment of  
Schedule II.

**“SCHEDULE II**

**ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES**

*[regulation 7(1), (4), (5) and (6), section 9(3), 11(b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and(h), 12(b), (d), (e), (g), (h) and (j), 13(b), and (e), 16(2), 17, 18(7) and 19(5)]*

NO.	CONTRAVENTION	PENALTY	CORRESPONDING SECTION/REGULATION
1.	Failure to comply with any condition imposed, standard, criteria or administrative procedures set by the DPAC or Ministry under the Act	(a) First violation - \$1,000 (b) Second violation - \$2,000 (c) Third violation – suspension of DPA status	
2.	Varying any characteristic of the company without approval of the DPAC	(a) \$6,000 after receipt of notice after 15 days (b) \$1,000 per day for every additional day application remains outstanding, (up to 15 days) (c) Suspension of DPA status after an accumulation of 30 days	section 9(1B), 15(1)(d) and (h)
3.	Failure to submit audited financials or certified statements within the specified time period or in the approved form	(a) \$1,000 after receipt of notice after 15 days (b) \$250 per day for every additional day report remains outstanding, (up to 15 days) (c) Suspension of DPA status after an accumulation of 30 days	regulation 7
4.	Failure to submit quarterly report within the specified period or in the approved form	(a) \$100 after receipt of notice after 15 days (b) \$100 per day for every additional day report remains outstanding, (up to 15 days)	regulation 7(6)

		(c) Suspension of DPA status after an accumulation of 30 days	
5.	Failure to pay IRS fees within the specified time period	(a) \$100 after receipt of notice after 10 days (b) \$100 per day for every additional day report remains outstanding, (up to 20 days) (c) Suspension of DPA status after an accumulation of 30 days	regulation 10(1A)
6.	Failure to submit, a certified list of all shareholders and beneficial owners of the company annually	(a) \$6,000 after receipt of notice after 15 days (b) \$1,000 per day for every additional day application remains outstanding, (up to 15 days) (c) Suspension of DPA status after an accumulation of 30 days	regulation 11(2)
7.	Failure to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary requirements under the Belize Agricultural Health Authority Act	(a) First violation - \$1,000 (b) Second violation - \$2,000 (c) Third violation – suspension of DPS status	section 11(b)
8.	Failure to keep and maintain physical and electronic record of inventory, production or sale of goods and services	(a) \$6,000 after receipt of notice after 15 days (b) \$1,000 per day for every additional day records remain outstanding, (up to 15 days) (c) Suspension of DPA status after an accumulation of 30 days	section 11(c)
9.	Less than 85 percent of persons employed in DPA are nationals of Belize or a CARICOM Member State	(a) First violation - \$1,000 (b) Second violation - \$2,000 (c) Third violation – suspension of DPS status	section 11(d)
10.	Failure to ensure that persons employed in DPA who are not, nationals of Belize or a CARICOM Member State, are employed only as senior	(a) First violation - \$1,000 (b) Second violation - \$2,000 (c) Third violation – suspension of DPS status	section 11(e)

	management or technical staff		
11.	Failure to inform DPAC of intention to change company ownership	(a) \$6,000 after receipt of notice after 15 days (b) \$1,000 per day for every additional day application remains outstanding, (up to 15 days) (c) Suspension of DPA status after an accumulation of 30 days	section 9(3), 11(g)
12.	Failure to facilitate inspection by the Customs and Excise Department, of container of imported goods, that was granted pre-arrival clearance	(a) First violation - \$1,000 (b) Second violation - \$2,000 (c) Third violation – suspension of DPS status and \$1,000	section 11(f)
13.	Refusal to allow access into a DPA to the DPAC Secretariat, Customs and Excise Department, Police Department or other Regulator	Fine of \$10,000 and suspension of DPA status	section 11(i)
14.	Failure to ensure that company operating within the DPA is, an approved company or a permitted company under section 5(3)	(a) First violation - \$1,000 (b) Second violation - \$2,000 (c) Third violation – suspension of DPS status	section 12(b)
15.	Failure to make improvements to the DPA and provide all relevant infrastructure, facilities, utilities and services necessary to support the approved activities of the businesses within the DPA	(a) First violation - \$1,000 (b) Second violation - \$2,000 (c) Third violation – suspension of DPS status	section 12(d)
16.	Failure to provide security to safeguard	(a) First violation - \$1,000	section 12(e), 13(b)

	the movement of persons and goods in and out of the DPA, including surveillance, fencing or security	(b) Second violation - \$10,000 (c) Third violation - \$10,000 and suspension of DPS status	
17.	Conducting an activity not approved by the DPAC	(a) \$25,000 after receipt of notice after 15 days (b) \$1,000 per day for every additional day the activity continues (up to 15 days) (c) Suspension of DPA status after an accumulation of 30 days	Section 13(c) and 14(b)
18.	Failure to comply with a term of the Operations Contract	(a) First violation - \$1,000 (b) Second violation - \$2,000 (c) Third violation – suspension of DPS status	section 17
19.	Utilising fuel for activity other than generation of steam or electricity; or operation of water pump	(a) First violation - \$1,000 (b) Second violation - \$2,000 (c) Third violation – suspension of DPS status	section 18(7)".
20.	Failure to adopt rules and regulations for the DPA, with the prior approval of the DPAC, to promote the safe and efficient operation of the DPA	(a) First violation - \$1,000 (b) Second violation - \$2,000 (c) Third violation – suspension of DPS status	

Amendment of  
Schedule III.

### 13. Schedule III of the principal Regulations is amended–

- (a) by deleting the item headed “**NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE**”, and replacing it with the following item as follows–

<b>”NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE</b>	<b>\$</b>
Zero capital investment	\$2,500
New application	\$5,000
Renewal of DPA status	\$5,000
Variation of DPA status	\$2,500
Variation of application in relation to the production of renewable energy	\$0”; and

- (b) by deleting the item headed “**PROCESSING FEE FOR NEW APPLICATION, RENEWAL OR OF DPA STATUS OR VARIATION TO CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE RE NEW ACTIVITIES**”, and replacing it with the following item as follows–

**“APPROVAL FEE FOR NEW APPLICATION OR RENEWAL OF DPA STATUS”**

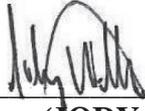
- (c) by inserting the following new item after the item headed “**APPROVAL FEE FOR NEW APPLICATION OR RENEWAL OF DPA STATUS**”, as follows–

<b>“APPROVAL FEE FOR VARIATION TO CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE</b>
Where capital investment is \$500,000 or less - \$5,000
Where capital investment is between \$500,001 and 1,000,000 - \$7,500
Where capital investment is between \$1,000,001 and 3,000,000 - \$10,000
Where capital investment is 3,000,001 or more - \$12,500”.

- (d) in the item headed “**INDUSTRIAL ROOF SPACE**”, by inserting the following row immediately after the second row, as follows–

In relation to any space used to produce renewable energy	\$0
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**MADE** by the Designated Processing Areas Committee with the approval of the Minister responsible for investment this 22 day of August 2025.



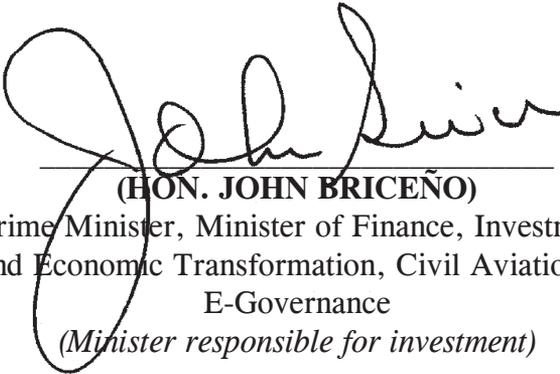
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**(JODY WILLIAMS)**

Chairperson

*Designated Processing Areas Committee*

**APPROVED** by the Minister responsible for investment this 27 day of August 2025.



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**(HON. JOHN BRICEÑO)**

Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Investment  
and Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation &  
E-Governance

*(Minister responsible for investment)*