Improved efficiency in supervision, improved licence applications and regulatory compliance.

Government bodies that issue licences or supervise compliance with rules know that these are time-consuming activities. By working together differently with companies and exchanging information more efficiently, it is possible to reduce these burdens. Entrepreneurs and public authorities have therefore taken the initiative of cooperating to introduce the Company Dossier (Ondernemingsdossier).

The most important aim of the Company Dossier is to reduce the regulatory burden for businesses and improve the efficiency of the implementation of supervision by government bodies. The Company Dossier ties in with Cabinet policy to promote electronic business practice and is part of the Digital Agenda.

What is the Company Dossier?
The Company Dossier enables businesses to share information about their own operations with regulators and licensing authorities. The company itself determines which authorities have access to the Company Dossier. After all, the Company Dossier belongs to the company. The company itself is responsible for the quality of the information. As a result, the regulators always consult the correct and latest information about the company in the Company Dossier, eradicating the need for separate requests for a submission of this information. This makes it possible to carry out remote checks and risk assessments. The Company Dossier is therefore first and foremost a new method for government authorities and entrepreneurs to work together and share information.

The result: improved compliance with the rules, simplification of licensing processes and more effective supervision. In other words, more time to do business.

How does the Company Dossier work?
Enterpreneurs and government bodies agree on what information they wish to exchange, and establish this in collaboration agreements. These agreements form the basis for working with the Company Dossier. For example, agreements are made about the powers the authorised regulator has to inspect the company information, which documents are included in the Company Dossier and how often an on-site inspection is still required. The company subsequently records the relevant company information in the Company Dossier just once, and updates it whenever necessary. If a licence then has to be applied for or if action has to be taken, this is reported in the Company Dossier. The company authorises various government authorities such as regulators, to access this information. The relevant government bodies then always have access to the latest compliance information. The Company Dossier in other words makes the digital exchange of this information between companies and government bodies easier, more transparent and more cost efficient.
What demands does the Company Dossier place on a participating government body, and what benefits does it generate?
The Company Dossier enables entrepreneurs to independently find their way around the jungle of rules. As a result, they are better able to comply with the rules, they have fewer questions and fewer incomplete application forms for licences are submitted.

For the regulators, too, the Company Dossier is a time-saving instrument: if correct compliance is demonstrated, specific inspections can be carried out on site. The regulator is able to consult the correct and current details in advance, and is therefore better informed about the situation. Remote inspections can then be carried out and risk assessments made, thereby enabling targeted on-site supervision at companies representing the highest risk. The costs for the government bodies in obtaining access to the Company Dossier are minimal. Authorities are granted simple Internet access to the Company Dossiers. The necessary investments depend on the degree of automation within the government bodies themselves, for example in terms of receiving the complete digital application and reporting forms from the Company Dossier.

The benefits in brief
• Fewer requests for assistance from entrepreneurs; less information is required
• Fewer incomplete licence applications
• More efficient and targeted supervision as a result of better prepared on-site inspections
• More time and space for advice and prevention
• Improved regulatory compliance by companies
• More up-to-date information about a company, which can be consulted at any time by all authorised government bodies (less exchange of data).

Planning and ambition
Both entrepreneurs and government bodies have shown great interest in the Company Dossier. Since November 2011, various municipalities and businesses have started the introduction process. Together with the three pioneering trade associations (hotel and restaurants, rubber and plastics and the recreation industries), Antwoord voor Bedrijven (Answers for Business), VNG (Association of Netherlands Municipalities), Inspectieraad (the General Inspectorate of the Netherlands), the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation and the Slim geregeld, goed verbonden (Sggv - Smart regulations, good connections) programme, they have set to work developing the Company Dossier in a practical form.

In the years to come, the number of businesses and government bodies working with the Company Dossier will grow step by step. The introduction will be expanded and new sectors will be invited to participate in the Company Dossier.

Municipal authorities and other government bodies participating in the introduction of the Company Dossier receive supervision and support from the Company Dossier programme office on behalf of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation.

The development of the Company Dossier is a partnership initiative comprising: VNO-NCW (Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers), MKB Nederland (Dutch small and medium-sized businesses association), trade associations for the hotel and restaurants, rubber and plastics and the recreation industries, Antwoord voor Bedrijven (Answers for Business), VNG (Association of Netherlands Municipalities), Inspectieraad (the General Inspectorate of the Netherlands), the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation and the Slim geregeld, goed verbonden (Sggv - Smart regulations, good connections) programme.

Would you like more information or do you have questions about the Company Dossier? Contact the secretariat on the general number +31 6 48 58 51 71 or surf to www.ondernemingsdossier.nl.