

Table of Contents

- Q1 Are multi-level marketing businesses legal or illegal?
- Q2 How to find information about whether a multi-level business is legally registered?
- Q3 How to cancel the contract with a multi-level marketing business (and begin to process the withdrawal and returned goods)?
- Q4 How to conduct the refunding for returned goods be after a participant withdraws from the scheme of a multi-level marketing business?
- Q5 What is an illegitimate multi-level marketing?
- Q6 Can an individual who is single and reaches 18 years old engage in multi-level marketing?
- Q7 Can participants request to view the financial statements of the multi-level marketing businesses they engage in?
- Q8 What can be done when there is too much inventory due to poor sales or defective products?
- Q9 Can participants be punished by the competent authority and what would be the likely violation?
- Q10 I still have questions and how do I search for related information?

Do you know all the correct answers?





Are multi-level marketing businesses legal or illegal?



Five assessment principles



- 1 Whether recruiting new participants is its main source of income of participants
- 2 Whether the prices of products or services are reasonable
- 3 Whether new participants need to pay a large amount of money as the membership fee and purchase costly products or those that are difficult to be sell out within a short period
- 4 Whether the multi-level marketing business provides a complete written participation contract in which related regulations of the Multi-level Marketing Supervision Act are specified
- 5 Whether the multi-level marketing business has registered with the Fair Trade Commission according to relevant laws

Two reminders

- 1 Think twice and wisely! Do not join a multi-level marketing scheme as a result of an impulsive decision or for returning a favor.
- 2 Be thoroughly aware of the limited period allowed for contract cancellation or termination as well as related regulations, and also carefully preserve the contract and proof of transaction.

Click me to enter-

Marketing Enterprises

List of Registered Multi-level



How to find information about whether a multi-level business is legally registered?

Visit the website of the Fair Trade Commission and click on the "List of Registered Multi-level Marketing Enterprises". The names of businesses and their main office locations will be displayed. You may also click on "File Link" to make queries about the products marketed and participation contract contents.





How to cancel the participation contract with a multi-level marketing business? (and begin to process the withdrawal and returned goods)

Whether you have signed the contract to return a favor but have not yet made the payment, and feel like quitting due to poor sales or simply do not want to do that anymore...



You can.....

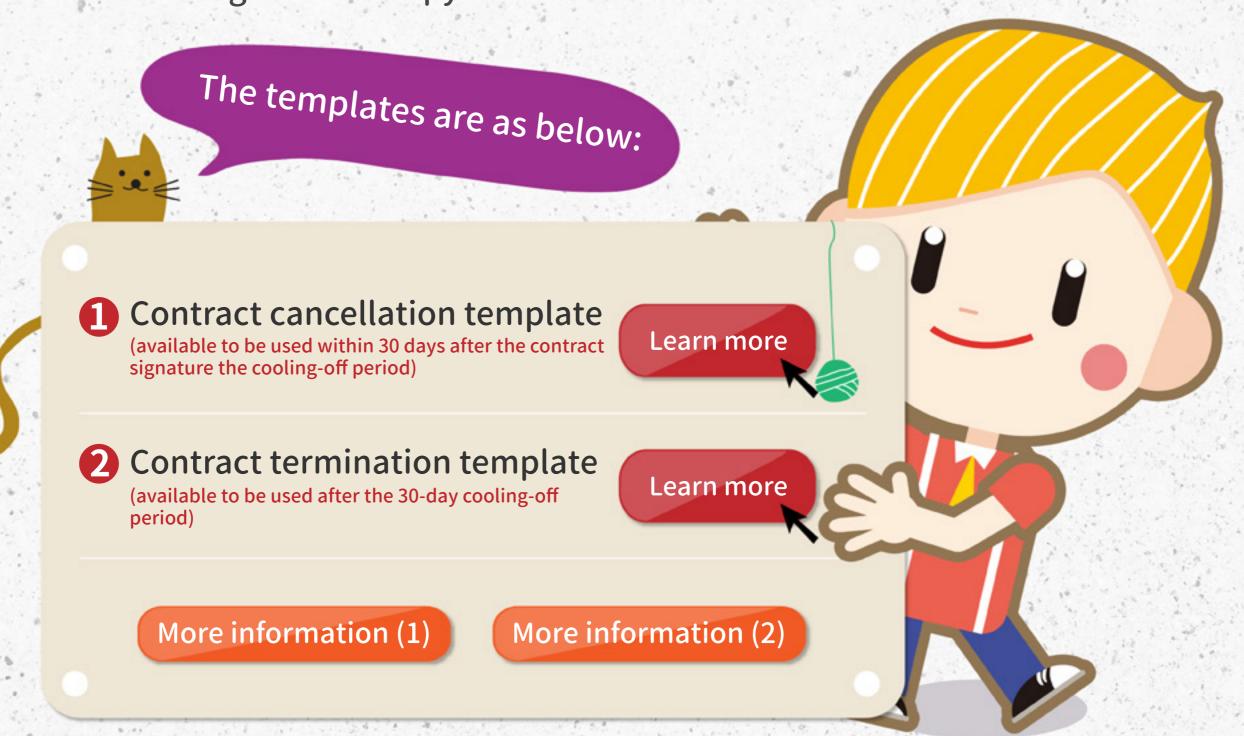
Act according to Articles 20 and 21 of the Multi-level Marketing Act and issue a "written" notice to the multi-level marketing business to cancel or terminate the contract.

No liquidated damage is required!

As set forth in Articles 22 and 23 of the Multi-level Marketing Supervision Act, a multi-level marketing business shall no:

- 1 Request its participants for damage compensation or impose liquidated damages on participants for contract cancellation or termination.
- 2 Improperly hinder a participant from returning goods based on laws
- 3 Improperly withhold commissions, bonuses, or other economic benefits payable to participants.

For future presentation of evidence, participants are suggested to purchase legal attest letter formats from the Post Office, fill it out in accordance with the guidelines, and send the original copy to the multi-level marketing business along with the copy to the Fair Trade Commission.





How to conduct the refunding for returned goods be after a participant withdraws from the scheme of a multi-level marketing business?



- 1 Each registered multi-level marketing business stipulates in its participation contract regulations associated with product depreciation standards and refunding. Participants shall carefully and properly preserve the contract to ensure their rights and interests.
- According to Articles 20 and 21 of the Multi-level Marketing Supervision Act, participants may issue a "written" notice to the multi-level marketing business to cancel or terminate the contract and request to return goods. The multi-level marketing business shall thereby process the refunding according to laws.

 (See the next page for the simplified tables)

Request to withdraw and return goods within the cooling-off period (30-day period after the contract signature)

Yes

No, the 30-day cooling-off period is exceeded

Contract cancellation

(Article 20 of the Multi-level Marketing Supervision Act)

Contract termination

(Article 21 of the Multi-level Marketing Supervision Act)

Returning full product value

The MLM business is required to return the money within 30 days after contract cancellation takes effect, but it may deduct the amount of:

- Product damage value
- 2 Bonuses given for the products returned

Goods return "service" (Courses, for example) "Products" returned (Foods, for example)

Over six months since the deadline for product collection

No

Yes



The MLM business is required to return the money within 30 days after contract termination takes effect, but it may deduct the amount of:

- 1 Product depreciation value
- 2 Bonuses given for the products return

The MLM business may refuse to accept returned goods by citing contract regulations.





Here is an example of Mr. A...

Mr. A signed the contract to become a MLM participant of Company B. He paid an NT\$300 membership fee, purchased food products that totaled NT\$5,000, and also received a bonus of NT\$500.

Mr. A cancelled the contract on April 20 (within 30 days after contract signature)

Before May 20 (within 30 days after contract cancellation took effect), Company B shall

- 1 Accept the products returned by Mr. A and return NT\$5,000
- 2 Return the NT\$300 membership fee
- 3 Deduct the NT\$500 bonus →The collectible amount of Mr. A would be NT\$5,000 + 300 – 500 = NT\$4,800.

except the products are damaged or lost!

Mr. A terminated the contract on June 5 (more than 30 days after contract signature)

Before July 5 (within 30 days after contract termination took effect), Company B shall

- 1 Repurchase the products at 90% of the original purchase price, but it may deduct product depreciation value. In other words, the amount Mr. A could collect would be NT\$5,000 * 90% value depreciation.
- Deduct the NT\$500 bonus →The amount Mr. A could collect would be NT\$5,000 * 90% - product depreciation value – 500.

different product depreciation levels could be taken into account; enterprises having value depreciation standards should include them in the contract



Mr. A terminated the contract on December 1 (exceeding six months after the contract signature)

Because Mr. A was in possession of the products for over six months after the deadline the products could be picked up, Company B could refuse to refund Mr. A according to contract stipulations.

However, if Company B provides "services" (such as cyberspace or courses) instead of products (such as food products or cosmetics), the "services" Mr. A purchased shall not be subject to the limited period for returning goods six months after the contract signature.

More information (1)

More information (2)





What is an illegitimate multi-level marketing?



- 1. According to Article 18 of the Multi-level Marketing Supervision Act: "Multi-levels sales enterprises shall have participants engage in promoting and selling goods or services at reasonable market prices as their major income, instead of earning mainly by introducing new participants."
- 2. In layman's term, this is the "pyramid schemes", meaning that participants earn their main income by introducing new participants instead of by promoting and selling goods or services at reasonable market prices. Significantly more expensive prices of the products and services or harsh product return conditions are also common characteristics among illegitimate multi-level marketing.



Be careful! Don't be cheated!



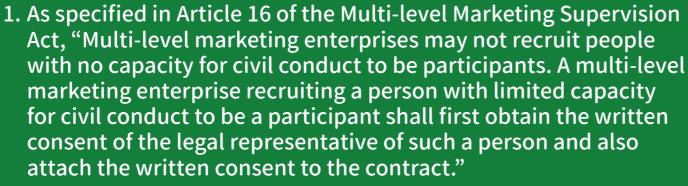
- 3. Illegitimate multi-level marketing is highly likely to turn into a variety of illegal fundraising, the acts in violation of the Banking Act or acts of fraud punishable by the Criminal Code. One shall think twice and wisely before joining any marketing scheme to prevent financial loss or violation of laws.
- 4. As illegitimate multi-level marketing involves criminal liability, it is suggested that people suffering damages or discovering any relevant illegal activities to inform jurisdiction authorities by presenting related evidence.







Can an individual who is single and reaches 18 years old engage in multi-level marketing?



2. As specified in the Civil Code, a "majority" is a person reaching the twentieth year of age. Therefore, an individual who is single and not yet reaches 18th year of age is a person with limited capacity for juridical acts (with an age between 7 and 20 years). A multi-level marketing business recruiting such person must acquire the "written" consent of his or her legal representative (s).

Learn more





Can participants request to view the financial statements of the multi-level marketing businesses they engage in?



According to Article 17 of the Multi-level Marketing Supervision Act, participants may request to inspect the financial statements of the multi-level marketing enterprise to which they belong and the multi-level marketing enterprise may not refuse such requests without justification.





What can be done when there is too much inventory due to poor sales or defective products?

There are provisions in the Multi-level Marketing Supervision Act regarding return of goods as a result of participant withdrawal. If some goods are returned due to poor sales or defective conditions, such an issue shall be handled according to the contract signed by the participant and the multi-level marketing business. Participants shall keep a track of the inventory condition and avoid hoarding.

Rea	son for Return of Goods	How to Process?	Applicable Regulations
result from	n of goods as a of withdrawal the multi-level eting organization	Issuance of a written notice to the multi-level marketing business to request for contract cancellation or termination	The withdrawal and goods return regulations set forth in the Multi-level Marketing Supervision Act shall apply
result	n of goods as a of poor sales or tive condition of acts	To be processed according to the contract signed by the participant and the multi-level marketing business	To be settled via the civil procedure according to related regulations set forth in the Civil Code

Say no to hoarding!

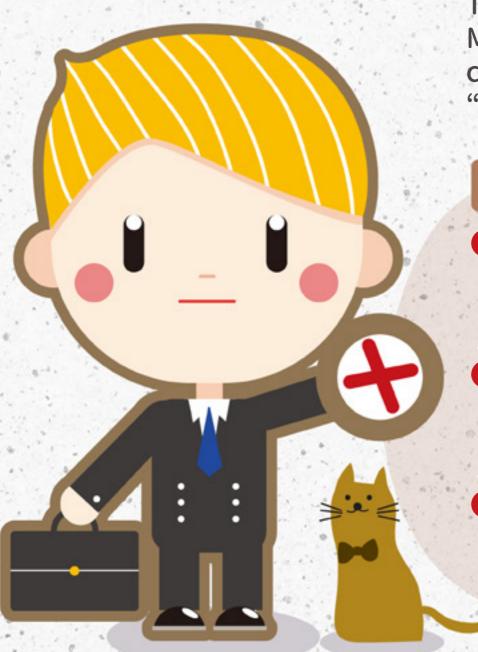




Learn more



Can participants be punished by the competent authority and what would be the likely violation?



The regulations on participants set forth in the Multi-level Marketing Supervision Act can be categorized as "recruitment regulations" and "sales regulations":

Recruitment:

- 1 When introducing new participants, a participant may not engage in any false or misleading representation with regard to the sales system, participation conditions, and products or services.
- When recruiting via advertising or other methods, a participant shall clearly indicate that new recruits will be engaging in multi-level marketing and shall not recruit under the disguise of recruiting for standard full-time/part-time jobs.
- When using successful cases to promote and market products or services or recruit new participants, the cases cited shall not contain any false or misleading representation.

Sales:

- 1 A participant shall not request new participants to pay fees apparently out of proportion to the cost when holding training courses, workshops reunions, meetings, or giving promotions.
- 2 A participant shall not request new participants to pay bonds, liquidated damages or any other expenses with the amount that is obviously inappropriate.
- 3 A participant shall not urge new participants to purchase products at quantities that normal people cannot sell out within a short period.
- 4 A participant shall not urge new participants to purchase or allow them to have rights to promote two or more multi-level marketing organizations.
- A participant shall not adopt inappropriate approaches to impede new participants from withdrawing from the multi-level marketing organization and returning goods by cancelling or terminating the contract.
- 6 A participant shall not request new participants to fulfill obligations that are obviously unfair.



In recent years, there are cases in which some participants introduced foreign multi-level marketing schemes or organizations without registration and thereby got punishment by the competent authority.

Punishable cases of participants introducing or implementing foreign multi-level marketing schemes

Foreign

Multi-level marketing businesses

(Those without registering with the Fair Trade Commission)

Domestic

(Those who start multi-level marketing operation without registering with the Fair Trade Commission in advance)



Learn more



I still have questions and how do I search for related information?



In addition, if you are already a participant, you may choose to pay and join the Multi-level Marketing Protection Foundation to get better protection.

I feel so relieved to have protection.



Pay the NT\$100 protection fund (in one lump sum) and the annual fee (the amount to be announced in January each year)

The payments allow you to have legal counseling with regard to multi-level marketing, dispute mediation or lawsuit assistance.





Official Site of Multi-level
Marketing Protection
Foundation



