

**Prime Minister's Office
Board of Investment**

4TH REGULATORY REFORMS PACKAGE

STREAMLINING THE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS SECTOR IN PAKISTAN

The surgical instruments manufacturing sector in Pakistan operates under a complex and fragmented regulatory framework involving **28** Regulatory Licenses, Certificates, and Obligations (RLCOs) administered by **20** different departments across federal, provincial, local, and international levels. The current system requires **114** documents to start a business, with approximately 44% duplication of information, making it license-heavy and heavily focused on pre-market approvals. Business approvals often take more than 1.25 years due to overlapping mandates and extensive inspections.

To address these challenges, a comprehensive reform package is proposed to simplify and modernize the regulatory environment. Key reforms include the adoption of a risk-based licensing approach by DRAP, removal of duplicative requirements such as Fire NOC and mandatory SIMAP, and the introduction of a single unified application process through the Business Facilitation Center (BFC) under BOI Punjab. These measures aim to significantly reduce approval timelines to approximately three months.

The reform also proposes rationalization of RLCOs by eliminating **two**, retaining **twelve**, streamlining **nine**, and applying risk-based criteria to **five** RLCOs. Collectively, these changes are expected to improve regulatory efficiency, reduce compliance costs, and enhance ease of doing business, leading to positive economic outcomes for the sector.

A decision is required from the Cabinet Committee on Regulatory Reforms (CCoRR) to form a committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary Punjab to integrate all relevant departments with BFC Punjab, with BOI Punjab designated as the lead agency for implementation.
