

Cross-border tax planning:

Legal structure

Transaction arrangement

Choice of jurisdictions, regions and locations



Special economic areas (SEA)

- ➤ SEA in different parts of China includes free trade zones, export processing zones, bonded logistic centers, bonded logistic parks, bonded warehouses, etc.
- Legal implications will arise for goods shipped between SEA and elsewhere in China



Comparison: Setting up a FICE or a branch (1)

Legal requirements

- 1. No capital required for branch in general
- 2. Scope of business for the branch cannot exceed that for the head office
- 3. Branch is required to apply for a branch business license, national tax and local tax registrations
- 4. Branch has no I/E rights

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Comparison: Setting up a FICE or a branch (2)

Business consideration for the branch

- 1. Whether the branch will sign sales contract and issue tax invoices
- 2. Whether Branch will carry on retail business
- 3. Labor and social security administration in different cities

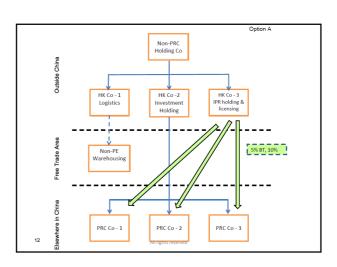
Comparison: Setting up a FICE or a branch (3)

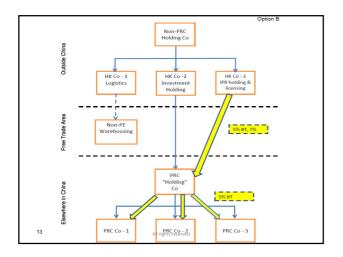
Transfer pricing rules for goods sold between HO and branch

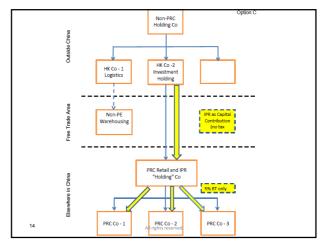
- ➤ HO (Shanghai)=> imported goods => Branch (Su Zhou) => domestic buyer
- 1. I/E rights and contractual rights?
- Transfer price for VAT purposes = Cost x (1 + 10%)

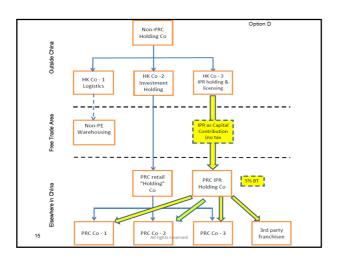
Case study:
business plan to set up retail shops in major cities in China

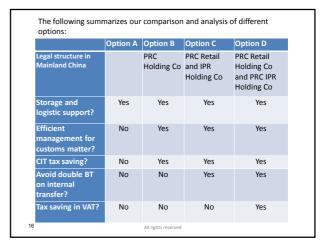
Entry mode and legal structure











Tax efficiency

➤ Where the percentage of value added in retail sales is higher than the break-even rate of 29.41% (See VAT accounting and planning), it is worth to set up a separate IP property holding company to pay business tax.



