

COFECE notifies economic agents of a statement of probable responsibility for absolute monopolistic practices in the markets for laboratory and blood bank services

- *The Investigative Authority concluded its investigation and issued a Statement of Probable Responsibility for possible collusion.*
- *The Notification of Probable Responsibility initiates the trial-like procedure, during which notified parties will be able to address COFECE's allegations.*

Mexico City, March 28, 2019.- The Federal Economic Competition Commission (COFECE or Commission) notified diverse economic agents of a Statement of Probable Responsibility for the commission of absolute monopolistic practices (horizontal restraints or collusive agreements) in the market for comprehensive laboratory tests and blood bank services, as well as related goods and services, contracted by the national health system on national territory.

The investigation, filed under DE-011-2016, initiated on April 1, 2016, resulting from a complaint, concluded on November 8, 2018. The Statement of Probable Responsibility indicates the Investigative Authority has knowledge of facts that signal possible coordination with the purpose of bid rigging or sitting out a **public health institution** procurement process for the contracting of the provision of health care services, by one or several economic agents.

Absolute monopolistic practices are contracts, agreements or arrangements among competing economic agents, with the purpose or effect of manipulating prices, restricting or limiting demand, the division or segmentation of markets, bid-rigging, as well as the exchange of information between said agents for the commission of any of the aforementioned conducts.

The notification of the Statement of Probable Responsibility established the initiation of the trial-like procedure during which the alleged offenders have the right to argue in their favor and submit evidence related to the allegations presented against them. Once the facts have been addressed, the evidence processed, and the corresponding arguments presented, COFECE's Board of Commissioners may issue a resolution as per the law.



Should an unlawful conduct be confirmed, the economic agents may be fined as per the Federal Law on Economic Competition.

See in Spanish: [What is an absolute monopolistic practice?](#) and [What are Statements of Probable Responsibility and what are they used for?](#)

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The Federal Economic Competition Commission is entrusted with safeguarding competition and free market access. This contributes to people's well-being and the efficient functioning of markets. With its work, COFECE seeks better conditions for consumers, more services of higher quality and a "level playing field" for companies.

