

Cofece finds evidence of probable collusive agreements in radiological material sales to the government

- Public health institutions perform over 20 million X-rays annually.
- The involved companies are alleged to have colluded not to compete in certain tenders, which could have resulted in unfavorable purchasing conditions for the government.

Mexico City, December 9, 2024.- The Investigative Authority (AI) of the Federal Economic Competition Commission (Cofece) has formally accused several companies and individuals of allegedly manipulating public tenders for radiology materials in the healthcare sector. These actions, known as collusion or **absolute monopolistic practices**, are illegal and prohibited under the Federal Economic Competition Law (LFCE).

The accused have been served with a Draft Opinion of Likely Responsibility, and a trial procedure will now begin, where the alleged offenders will have the opportunity to present any evidence and arguments they deem necessary for their defense. Upon completion of this stage, the Cofece Plenary will analyze all the information and evidence presented to definitively determine whether the responsibility of the accused is substantiated and, if applicable, impose the corresponding sanctions.

In the Mexican public healthcare system, especially in regions with limited access to specialized medical services, the use of X-rays is crucial for the early and timely diagnosis of diseases. From fractures and respiratory problems to the early detection of certain types of cancer, radiological studies allow healthcare professionals to make critical decisions for patients' well-being.

The Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) conducts about 19 million radiological studies per year, and the Institute for Social Security and Services for State Workers (ISSSTE) performs around 1.6 million itself. Other state and municipal centers and clinics across the country also rely on X-rays as one of their primary diagnostic tools. The government purchases radiological materials and equipment through public tenders that must ensure transparency, fairness, and efficiency. When companies collude to manipulate public tenders, they not only affect public finances but also limit access to essential medical services for Mexicans, harming those who depend on the healthcare system.

Cofece will continue to monitor and penalize any illegal practices that harm competition, especially in critical sectors such as public health.

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