

## Thailand Introduces New Film Legislation



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The Thai Cabinet has introduced a draft Film Act (the “Draft Act”), which replaces the existing Film and Video Act, and aims to enhance the competitiveness of the domestic film industry, as well as establish a self-regulated film rating system. The Draft Act is designed to promote the growth of the Thai film industry, ensure appropriate content for viewers, and make the production process easier and more accessible for filmmakers.

### Key Objectives of the Draft Act

- Promote the domestic film industry and enhance its competitiveness on the international stage.
- Establish a self-regulated film rating system in consultation with the government, civil society, and key industry stakeholders.
- Reduce regulatory burdens on and barriers to film production in Thailand.
- Attract foreign film productions to Thailand, fostering industry growth.

### Key Provisions of the Draft Act

#### 1. Promotion of the Film Industry:

- **Policies and Measures for Industry Promotion:** To foster creativity, innovation, and development in the Thai film industry, with a national film industry promotion policy to be formulated and then updated every five years.

- **National Film Industry Promotion Committee:** To drive policy implementation, and the members of which shall include representatives from the government, private sector, and industry experts.
- **Thai Film Industry Council:** Established as a private sector entity to strengthen industry collaboration and act as a liaison point with the government.

## 2. Film Regulation:

- **Film Rating System:** Introduction of a self-regulated rating system in line with international film rating standards.
- **Film Classification Oversight Committee:** Established to review and improve film rating guidelines, comprising experts in film, culture, psychology, media, and child development.
- **Film Business Operations (Theater):** To reduce regulatory burdens by replacing the licensing regime with a simple registration system.

## 3. Foreign Film Production in Thailand:

A Foreign Film Review Committee shall be established to regulate international film productions in Thailand, with clear guidelines for permits, filming procedures, and compliance with Thai laws.

## 4. Registrar and Government Officers:

The roles and powers of the Registrar and enforcement officers shall be defined under the Draft Act.

## 5. Administrative Measures:

Enforcement mechanisms implemented to address violations related to film regulation and foreign film production:

- **Film Regulation Compliance:** To ensure compliance with rating and business operation standards.
- **Foreign Film Production Compliance:** To enforce adherence to production regulations.

## 6. Appeals:

Procedures set out for appealing decisions made by regulatory bodies and enforcement officers:

- **Appeals against decisions relating to Domestic Film Regulations:** Covers appeals against decisions on content ratings, screenings, and business operations.
- **Appeals against decisions relating to Foreign Films:** Covers appeals related to foreign film production permits.

The Draft Act aims to balance government oversight with industry self-regulation, promote the growth of the Thai film industry, and enhance Thailand's attractiveness as a global film production hub. The Draft Act is currently under urgent review by the Council of State, before it is further passed to the House of Representative for approval.

Chandler Mori Hamada will closely monitor these legal developments and keep you updated once they are enacted. If you have any questions in relation to the topic raised in this briefing, please contact the authors listed above.