

National Library of Thailand and Press Act 2007 (B.E. 2550)

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1. Background

Mainly, the National Library is responsible for collecting publications published in Thailand in order to keep those as national and historical publications of Thailand.

To receive the said publications, the National Library has held the Principles to be in accordance with the Press Act 1941 (B.E. 2484) specified in clause 20 and 32 regarding transferring publications to the National Library, penalty of 12 Baht fine.

Afterward, the National Library has considered that the currency rate has been changed affecting the reduction in the fine and this results the incompliance to deliver the publications to the National Library. The National Library, therefore, has applied the ISBN to the books and ISSN to journals, magazines and newspapers, and that the publisher deliver 2 copies to the National Library after printing in order to replace the Press Act 2484 (B.E. 2484)

Later in 2007, the government has terminated the Press Act 1941 (B.E. 2484) being in charge of the Ministry of Interior and approved the Press Act 2007 (B.E. 2550) according to the principle that to place the criteria of establishment notification as an evidence to indicate the publisher, advertiser, editor or the newspaper owner for the advantage of probation by damaged people in the prosecution may cause by illegal publisher, advertiser, editor or the newspaper owner. This Act shall be under the Ministry of Culture of which has been transferred to be the responsibility of The Fine Arts Department and have the National Library as licensor for newspapers, journals and magazines in Bangkok and surrounding areas. For another provinces are under the 1-15 Regional Office of Fine Arts all through the country as licensor section in each area. This Act is effective since 19 December 2007.

2. National Library of Thailand and Press Act 2007 (B.E. 2550)

2. 1 To register the newspaper according to the Press Act 2007 (B.E. 2550)

Since the National Library of Thailand and Press Act 2007 (B.E. 2550) has been effective in December 2007 resulting more duties for the National Library. The new duty for the National Library is to register the publishing of newspapers, journals, magazines to publishers who wish to publish their new newspapers, journals, magazines of which their publishing and printing is located in Thailand. For those newspaper owners whose newspaper office is located within Bangkok and surrounding area, register their publishing at the National Library. For regional locations the registration can be processed at 1 – 15 Regional Office of Fine Arts of each area. The registration steps are as following.

1. The publication owner submit the document required for registration :
 - Application form
 - A copy of identification card, house registration of the advertiser, publisher, editor and the newspaper owner
 - Medical certification letter of the publisher, editor and the newspaper owner
 - The evidence showing the right to use the place as a press office such as a land title
 - 2 portrait photos 2 (inches) of the press owner
 - A sample of the newspaper title
 - A picture showing location of the newspaper office
 - 5,000 Baht fee
2. To check the name of the newspaper before publishing registration (the law stated that for those who wish to register their publishing, the name shall not be the same as the previous registered one).
3. Issue a license to publish the newspapers, journals, magazines.

2.2 The Press Act 2007 (B.E. 2550) related ISBN and ISSN

The Press Act 2007 (B.E. 2550), Category 1 (publication), clause 8 states that in the publication of which is not a kind of newspaper and is published in the Kingdom the following content must be shown:

- (1) Name of the publisher and location of the printing.
- (2) Name and location of the advertisement agency.
- (3) International Standard Book Number: ISBN of which has been issued by the National Library. In addition, the said publication includes an electrical recorded publication for sale or for free.

It is clear that this Press Act 2007 (B.E. 2550) focuses on the importance of the ISBN issued by the National Library and that the publisher should request for the ISBN for their book and publish or show in the book to be in accordance with the regulation of book publishing in Thailand, universal standard so that this could move forward and expand the Thailand publication business globally.

There is no content regarding the delivery of journals, magazines and newspapers from publisher to the National Library therefore, the National Library is requesting assistance from publisher to apply for the ISSN for their publications. This is to specified in the ISSN application that once the journals, magazines and newspapers are published, 3 copies of the said publication shall be sent to the National Library continuously. Due to no content regarding the delivery of the journals, magazines and newspapers to the National Library, the National Library consequently, considers and sees the importance of this matter. The Board Commission has been appointed for the consideration on any amendment of the ministerial regulations Class according to the Press Act 2007 (B.E. 2550) in order to propose in the next draft of the Ministry Regulations. Once the New Ministry Regulation is to be in accordance with the proposal of the board commission, the National Library shall be regarded as the most complete National Legal Deposit.

3. The Press Act 2007 (B.E. 2550) and the Legal Deposit Section

More than 70 years, the National Library has received books and other publications published in the country according to the Press Act 1941 (B.E. 2484) from printing and other authorities 2 copies of each book. One copy is to be kept in the Legal Deposit Section in the National Library as a national publishing record and another copy is to be provided for people using the National Library for their research. During that time, the respond from printing according to the Press Act 1941 (B.E. 2484) to send their books to the National Library was not well cooperated due to the fine of 12 Baht was a little amount of money. Besides, the cost of some book is higher than the fine rate, the printing did not see the matter to send the book to the National Library. The National Library usually have to request for the books from each printing, and other publications in order to have them kept in the Legal Deposit Section. Even the National Library has not received all the publications and books supposed to be received, yet the Legal Deposit Section was not sufficient to keep those publications. Therefore, in 2001, the National Library has built a new Legal Deposit building at Salaya Sub-district, Nakhon Pathom Province to store more coming publications (books, journals, magazines, newspapers) and to categorize other publication for the easy search.

Later, the publication revolution has been dramatically changed; the books are not only come as a publication, but also in electronic and other forms resulting the amendment of the Press Act 1941 (B.E. 2484) in order to be in accordance with the current situation. In 2007, the Prime Minister declared the New Press Act 2007 (B.E. 2550) to replace the Press Act of 1941 (B.E. 2484) to be effective since 19 December 2007. The Section relating to the Legal Deposit Sections are as following:

Clause 9 the publishers send 2 copies of their press to the National Library within 30 days from the date of propagation.

Since the Press Act is effective, the National Library has received many kinds of publications in complete published and electronic forms. Currently, the publications stored collected in the Legal Deposit Section of the National Library are as following:

Books	365,021 items
Journals, Magazines	327,324 items
Newspapers	738,449 items
Microfilms	236,839 items

Conclusion

Even though there is no Legal Deposit Act and National Library Act, the National Library has the Press Act 2007 (B.E. 2550) stating that any publisher publish their publication in Thailand must send 2 copies to the National Library within 30 days of propagation. However, the Act does not include the deliver of newspapers, journals, magazines to the National Library and this affects the collection in the Legal Deposit Section. Therefore, the National Library has regulated that the publisher and printing must request for ISSN for their newspaper, journal and magazine. After the publishing, 3 copies of each publication shall be sent to the National Library as a replacement of the Press Act. At present, the National Library receives publications from publishers and systematically arranges in the Legal Deposit Section and the search for those title of publications are convenient and quick.