



Thailand Strengthens Anti-Corruption Framework to Align with OECD Standards

Thailand is advancing proposed amendments to the Organic Act on Prevention and Suppression of Corruption B.E. 2561 (2018) as part of a broader effort to align its legal framework with international standards set by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The reform is driven by Thailand's strategic objective to accede to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and progress toward potential OECD membership by 2030.

The proposed amendments focus primarily on strengthening the legal regime governing foreign bribery. Key changes include expanding the scope of foreign bribery offences, introducing conspiracy-related provisions, clarifying legal definitions, and enhancing corporate liability rules. These reforms aim to address existing gaps in Thailand's anti-corruption framework and ensure functional equivalence with OECD standards, particularly in combating cross-border corruption.

A notable implication of the reforms is the heightened compliance burden on businesses. Companies—especially multinational corporations and those engaged in international transactions—will be expected to implement more robust anti-bribery controls, internal policies, and monitoring mechanisms. The emphasis on corporate liability signals a shift toward holding legal entities accountable for misconduct, rather than focusing solely on individual offenders.

These amendments also reflect broader structural issues identified in Thailand's anti-corruption regime, including gaps in enforcement, transparency, and whistleblower protection. OECD assessments have highlighted the need for stronger institutional coordination and clearer protections for reporting persons, indicating that legislative reform must be complemented by effective implementation and enforcement mechanisms.

From a legal perspective, the proposed changes represent a significant step toward internationalisation of Thailand's anti-corruption laws. Aligning with OECD standards will enhance Thailand's credibility in global markets and improve investor confidence, particularly for foreign investors sensitive to corruption risks. However, the success of these reforms will

depend on consistent enforcement, judicial clarity, and the ability of both regulators and businesses to adapt to a more stringent compliance environment. In the long term, these developments signal a transition toward a more rigorous and globally integrated anti-corruption framework within Thailand's legal system.

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us via info@bglballaw.com

