



Thailand Intensifies Enforcement Against Non-Compliant Cannabis Shops

Thai authorities are stepping up inspections of cannabis shops nationwide as the Government moves to tighten enforcement of the country's increasingly restrictive cannabis regime. Authorities have indicated that legal action will be taken against businesses operating without valid licences or otherwise violating applicable requirements. The intensified inspections reflect Thailand's broader policy shift since the 2022 decriminalisation of cannabis, moving away from relatively liberal access toward a framework that places greater emphasis on medical use, licensing and regulatory oversight.

The enforcement campaign is particularly significant given the large number of cannabis establishments that entered the market following decriminalisation. Many businesses have subsequently faced licensing and compliance issues as the regulatory framework has developed. Authorities have already indicated that a substantial number of existing licences have expired and that only a portion of operators have successfully renewed or maintained their licences. This demonstrates that continued operation of a cannabis shop cannot be assumed merely because the business was lawfully established under the earlier regulatory environment; operators must comply with the requirements applicable under the current regime.

From a legal perspective, cannabis operators should therefore review their licensing status and operational practices, particularly regarding the sale and distribution of cannabis flower, medical-use requirements, record keeping and other conditions imposed on licensed establishments. The authorities' increased inspection activity also signals that compliance is likely to be assessed in practice rather than merely through documentary licensing requirements. Businesses that continue operating without valid authorisation or breach applicable conditions may face administrative measures and other legal consequences. The Government has also been tightening oversight of cultivation through digital monitoring of licensed growers, indicating that enforcement is increasingly extending across the cannabis supply chain.

Ultimately, the intensified inspections confirm that Thailand's cannabis industry is entering a more mature and highly regulated phase. The regulatory direction is increasingly focused on legitimate medical and controlled commercial activities rather than the broad recreational market that emerged after 2022. For cannabis businesses, investors and prospective operators, regulatory compliance should therefore be treated as a core business consideration, including maintaining valid licences, meeting operational requirements and monitoring regulatory developments. The continuing transition demonstrates a broader trend in Thailand's legal landscape toward replacing the uncertainty following cannabis decriminalisation with more structured and actively enforced regulation.

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

