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LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPLUBIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY



Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism

No. 518/MICT
Vientiane Capital, date 13 June 2012

--Decision
on Procedures for Importation and Distribution of Publications

- Pursuant to the Law on Publishing No. 05/NA, dated 09 December 2008;
- Pursuant to the Enterprise Law No.11/NA, dated 09 November 2005;
- Pursuant to Government's Decree on the Import and Export of Goods No. 114/GoL, dated 6 April 2011; and
- Pursuant to Prime Minister's Decree on the Goods Import Licensing Procedures No. 180/PM, dated 07 July 2009,

The Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism hereby issues the following Decision:

Section 1
General Provisions

Article 1. Purpose

This Decision sets out procedures for import and distribution of publication in Lao PDR. This Decision has no purpose to restrict the quantity or value of importation, but only for statistical and import monitoring purposes, through the automatic import licensing regime.

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Article 2. Definition of Terms

In this Decision "Publication" means books, electronic publication or other means of publication for distribution as defined in the Lao PDR's Customs Nomenclature as follows: 4901; 4903; 4905.91.00; 4905.99.00 and 4906.

Article 3. Scope of Application

This Decision applies for the import and distribution of publication in Lao PDR.

Section 2
Rights and Requirements of Import and Distribution of Publication

Article 4. Rights for Importation and Distribution of Publication

- Any individual, entity and organization located in or outside Lao PDR has the right to import or export in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of Lao PDR.
- The publication distribution enterprises registered under Lao PDR law have the rights to distribute publication in Lao PDR.

Article 5. Requirements for Distribution Publication

Publication distribution enterprises shall comply with the following requirements:

1. Be an authorized distributor of a publication;
2. Have education or training course related to publication with a certificate.
3. Have an approval from the Publication Administration Authority.

Section 3

Publication Import Licensing Procedures

Article 6. Application for Importation of Publication

The import of publication shall obtain an import license from Department of Publication, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.

Article 7. Required Documents for Publication Import License Application

Document required for applying for a publication import license are as follows:

1. Application for publication import license;
2. Copy of the following:
 - Valid Enterprise Registration Certificate or Concession Registration Certificate (for enterprises located in Lao PDR); or
 - Valid enterprise registration issued by the competent authority of the relevant country (for enterprises located outside Lao PDR).
3. List of publication that will be imported.

Any documents in foreign language shall be accompanied with its Lao translation as certified by the Notary Office of Lao PDR.

Article 8. Publication Import License

The issuance, modification and term of the publication import licenses shall follow the Decree on Goods Import Licensing Procedures No. 180/PM, dated 07 July 2009 on. The import license is not transferrable.

Article 9. Fees and Charges

Fees and Charges for issuance and modification of publication import licenses shall follow the Edict no.03/P, dated 19 November 2008 on “Fees and Charges”.

Article 10. Provision of Documents upon Actual Importation

- Upon actual importation, importers shall provide the following documents to customs authority:
1. Publication import license as issued under this Decision; and
 2. Other required documents as per customs regulations.

Section 4

Monitor and Inspection

Article 11. Monitor

After the publication were imported within 7 days, individual, entity and organization that imported such publication shall notify its purpose of use including detailed utilization plan for each period to Department of Publication, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.

Article 11. Inspection

Individual, entity and organization exercise the business related to the publication such as: reading service, learning-teaching, distribution, etc., shall be under the monitor and inspection of the Department of Publication and shall be in compliance with the Law on Publishing and other related laws.

**Section 5
Final Provisions**

Article 13. Implementation

Department of Publication shall coordinate with relevant authorities to implement this Decision accordingly and effectively.

Article 14. Effectiveness

This Decision shall be effective 30 days after the date of signature.

The Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism,

[Signed and sealed]
Prof. Dr. Bosengkhom VONGDALA