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Legal Alert June 2025 Where legal meets business

New Draft Notification to amend the Rules on Company Registration Concerning Foreign Investment and Non-Thai Directors

This draft notification is currently undergoing a public hearing after the growing concerns of nominee-structured companies that are recently being found in increasing numbers and the public's demand for a systemic crackdown of the foreign business operating illegally in Thailand. It was reported that from September 2024 to May 2025, these unlawful nominee-structured companies of over 861 have caused damage of over 15.3 billion Baht.

This draft notification, if passed, will supersede the currently Order No. 205.2555 of the Central Company Registration Office Re: Criteria and Supporting Documents to Register Partnerships and Limited Companies Concerning Foreign Investment and Non-Thai Authorized Persons, with the focus to strengthen transparency and legitimacy of foreign companies wishing to conduct business in Thailand.

We have set out the main issues of the draft notification below.

Who Is Affected?

The new draft applies to:

- Partnerships or limited companies with foreign shareholders holding less than 50% of total equity; and
- Limited companies with only Thai shareholders, but with a non-Thai national serving as the authorized director.

An increase in Source of Fund Verification

Under the draft notification, all applicants must provide financial proof of their investment capability as well as their source, such as:

- A bank-issued certificate confirming available funds;
- Bank statements for the last six months;
- Relevant personal or corporate income tax filings; or
- Any other evidence clearly showing the source and capacity of the investment.

These documents must align with each individual's shareholding percentage to ensure the capital claimed in the registration is legitimate.

Conclusion and Deloitte's Observation

The draft notification finished the public hearing process on 20 June 2025. The Department of Business Development stated that it will take the comments and concerns of the public and relevant shareholders into consideration and implement them appropriately with the current settings as well as to address any legal loopholes that unintentionally benefit nominee-structured businesses.

We note that businesses with foreign shareholders are being monitored more closely during the last several years and that it may be necessary for businesses to review shareholder structure, director authorities and financial documentation. Our team is fully equipped with extensive knowledge on foreign business laws and corporate structuring, so please feel free to contact us with questions or to schedule a consultation.

Contacts

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