

**Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, B.E. 2551 (2008)**

**Translation**

BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, REX.

Given on the 6th Day of February B.E. 2551;

Being the 63rd Year of the Present Reign

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is graciously pleased to proclaim that:

Whereas it is expedient to have a law on alcoholic beverage control;

This Act contains certain provisions in relation to the restriction of the right and liberty of person, in respect of which Section 29 in conjunction with Section 41, Section 43 and Section 45 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, so permit by virtue of the law;

Be it, therefore, enacted by the King, by and with the advice and consent of the National Legislative Assembly, as follows;

**Section 1**

This Act is called the "Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, B.E. 2551 (2008)."

**Section 2**

This Act shall come into force as from the day following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

**Section 3**

In this Act;

"Alcoholic beverage" means liquor under the law on liquor, but not including drug, psychotropic substance and narcotics under the law concerning therewith;

"Alcoholic" means a person who drinks alcoholic beverage in a manner that he desires to have much more drinks habitually until his physical or mental condition has been affected adversely and alcohol withdrawal syndrome is going to be presented when he stops drinking;

"Sell" includes dispose of, distribute, disperse, exchange or give for commercial purpose;

"Advertise" means any act which enable the public to see, hear or known of any information for commercial purpose, including marketing communication;

"Marketing communication" means any activity organized for selling of goods, providing service, creating image, public relations, distribution of information, sale promotion, product exhibition, organizing or providing support to organize any special events and direct marketing;

"Message" includes any act which displays letters, illustrations, films, lights, sounds or symbols or any act which enable an individual to understand the meaning thereof;

"Label" means a picture, mark, paper or any other thing which displays information of goods as affixed to the goods or its container or parcel or inserted in or combined with the goods or its container or parcel, including document of instruction for use or manual of that goods and tag posted or presented on the goods or its container or parcel;

"Committee" means the National Alcoholic Beverage Policy Committee;

"Control Committee" means the Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee;

"Office" means the Office of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee;

“Competent official” means a person appointed by the Minister for the execution of this Act;

“Director” means the Director of the Office of Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee;

“Director-General” means the Director-General of Disease Control Department;

“Minister” means the Minister having charge and control of the execution of this Act.

#### **Section 4**

The Prime Minister shall have charge and control of the execution of this Act and shall have the power to appoint the competent official, to issue Ministerial Regulations, Rules and Notifications for the execution of this Act.

Such Ministerial Regulations, Rules and Notifications shall come into force upon their publications in the Government Gazette.

### **CHAPTER I**

#### **National Alcoholic Beverage Policy Committee**

#### **Section 5**

There shall be the “National Alcoholic Beverage Policy Committee” consisting of the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister entrusted by the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Minister of Public Health as the first Vice-Chairperson, the Minister of Finance as the second Vice-Chairperson, the Minister of Tourism and Sports, the Minister of Social Development and Human Security, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Industry and the Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister as members.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health shall be secretary and the Director-General and Director of Fiscal Policy Office shall be assistant secretaries.

#### **Section 6**

There shall be advisors to give advice in relation to the performance of the powers and duties of the Committee consisting of the followings;

- (1) a representative of the Tourism Council of Thailand, a representative of the Federation of Thai Industries and a representative of the Thai Chamber of Commerce;
- (2) a representative of organizations being juristic person having objectives in running the campaign on reduction or stop alcoholic beverage consumption which elect one among themselves to be a representative thereof, a representative of organizations being juristic person having objectives in child development which elect one among themselves to be a representative thereof and a representative of organizations being juristic person having objectives in consumer protection which elect one among themselves to be a representative thereof;
- (3) qualified persons appointed by the Committee from the persons having knowledge and experience in social science, law and information science, one from each field.

An election and appointment of the advisors under (2) and (3) shall be in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Committee.

The provisions of Section 11, Section 12, Section 13 and Section 14 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the holding of, and vacating from, office of the advisors under (2) and (3). In this regard, the power of the Minister under Section 13 (3) shall be the power of the Committee.

## **Section 7**

At a meeting, the presence of not less than one-half of the total number of the members shall constitute a quorum.

The Chairperson shall preside over the meeting. In the case where the Chairperson is unable to attend the meeting, or is unable to perform his duty, the first Vice-Chairperson shall preside over the meeting. If the first Vice-Chairperson is unable to attend the meeting, or is unable to perform his duty, the second Vice-Chairperson shall preside over the meeting. If the second Vice-Chairperson is unable to attend the meeting, or is unable to perform his duty, the members shall select one among themselves to preside over the meeting.

A decision shall be made by majority of votes. In casting votes, each member shall have one vote. In case of an equality of votes, the person who presides over the meeting shall cast an additional vote as a casting vote.

## **Section 8**

The Committee shall have the powers and duties as follows:

- (1) to lay down and submit policy, work plan and measure for controlling alcoholic beverage through taxation and other controlling measures as well as treatment and rehabilitation measures for an alcoholic to the Council of Ministers;
- (2) to monitor, evaluate and inspect the execution of those mentioned in (1);
- (3) to carry out any duty as prescribed by this Act or by other laws or as entrusted by the Council of Ministers.

## **Section 9**

The Committee may appoint sub-committee or working group for execution any matter as may be entrusted by the Committee.

The provisions of Section 7 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meeting of the sub-committee or working group.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee**

## **Section 10**

There shall be the "Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee" consisting of the followings:

- (1) the Minister of Public Health as Chairperson;
- (2) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health as the first Vice-Chairperson, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance as the second Vice-Chairperson and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior as the third Vice-Chairperson;
- (3) *ex officio* members, i.e. the Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, the Commissioner-General of the Royal Thai Police, the Permanent Secretary of Bangkok Metropolitan and the Manager of Thai Health Promotion Foundation;
- (4) three representatives of non-governmental organizations as appointed by the Minister from the persons selected by non-governmental organizations having

non-commercial objectives and providing support or running campaign in relation to the reduction of alcoholic beverage consumption or providing protection to children and youths or women or to consumers, not more than one from each field, in accordance with the Regulations as prescribed by the Minister;

- (5) three qualified persons appointed by the Minister from the persons having knowledge and experience in medicine, psychology or public health, in social work, social sciences, economics or mass communications, or in education, religions or cultures, not more than one from each field.

The Director-General shall be member and secretary. The Director-General of the Excise Department shall be member and assistant secretary. The Director shall be an assistant secretary.

### **Section 11**

The members under Section 10 (4) and (5) shall have the qualification and shall not have any of the prohibitions as follows:

- (1) being of Thai nationality;
- (2) not being an incompetent or quasi incompetent;
- (3) not having been sentenced by a final judgment to imprisonment, except where the punishment has undergone for at least two years or where the offence committed through negligence or a petty offence;
- (4) not having been adjudicated by a judgment for the commission of an offence relevant to alcoholic beverage, except where the punishment has undergone for at least five years;
- (5) not being a person holding political position or a member of local assembly or local administrator or holding any position responsible for the administration of a political party, an advisor of a political party or an officer of a political party;
- (6) not being an entrepreneur in alcoholic beverage business or being interested party in alcoholic beverage business;
- (7) not being an alcoholic.

### **Section 12**

The members under Section 10 (4) and (5) hold office for a term of three years and may be reappointed, but not more than two consecutive terms.

If the members vacate office at the end of the term under paragraph one, the new members shall be appointed to fulfill the vacancy within ninety days.

The members who vacate office shall remain in office to continue their duties until the new members take office.

### **Section 13**

In addition to vacating office at the end of the term, the members under Section 10 (4) and (5) vacate office upon:

- (1) death;
- (2) resignation;
- (3) being dismissed by the Minister;
- (4) being disqualified or being under any of the prohibitions under Section 11.

In the case where the members under Section 10 (4) and (5) vacate office before term, the new members shall be appointed to fulfill the vacancy, except where the remaining term of the members is less than ninety days. While the vacancy has not yet fulfilled, the remaining members shall continue their duties.

#### **Section 14**

If there is an appointment of the members under Section 10 (4) and (5) while the appointed members under Section 10 (4) and (5) remain in office, irrespective of whether it is an appointment for the additional member or for the fulfillment of the vacancy, the appointees shall hold office for the remaining term of the appointed members.

#### **Section 15**

The provisions of Section 7 shall apply to the meeting of the Control Committee *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **Section 16**

The Control Committee shall have the powers and duties as follows:

- (1) to propose policy, work plan and measure for controlling alcoholic beverage through taxation and other controlling measures as well as treatment and rehabilitation measures for an alcoholic to the Committee;
- (2) to lay down rules, procedure and conditions relating to container, label and warning message for manufactured or imported alcoholic beverage;
- (3) to give recommendation to the Minister on the determination of selling period, prohibited places for selling, prohibited practices or manners for selling, prohibited places or areas for consuming and things to be used for advertisement of alcoholic beverage;
- (4) to lay down rules, procedure and conditions relevant to treatment and rehabilitation of an alcoholic;
- (5) to give recommendation to the Committee or the Minister for the issuance of Notifications or Regulations, as the case may be, for the execution of this Act;
- (6) to give advice and recommendation to, and coordinate with, State and private agencies in relation to the control of alcoholic beverage and to propose preventive measure against the effects of alcoholic beverage consumption including treatment and rehabilitation of an alcoholic;
- (7) to provide or promote and support any dissemination of academic knowledge in concerning with dangers and toxics of alcoholic beverage to youths and the public;
- (8) to summon government official, officers or employees of any government agency, State agency, State enterprise or local government or any individual to give statement or opinions or to send any documents or information for the carrying out of this Act;
- (9) to carry out any duty as prescribed by this Act or upon the resolution of the Committee.

#### **Section 17**

The Control Committee may appoint sub-committee or working group for execution any matter as may be entrusted by the Control Committee.

The provisions of Section 7 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meeting of the sub-committee or working group.

#### **Section 18**

There shall be Bangkok Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee consisting of Bangkok Governor as Chairperson, the Permanent Secretary of Bangkok Metropolitan as Vice-Chairperson, a representative of Metropolitan Police Bureau, a representative of the Public Relations Department, a representative of the Excise Department, the Chief of Bangkok Metropolitan Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office, the Director of Community Development Department, the Director of Education Area in Bangkok Metropolitan

appointed by Bangkok Governor, the Director of Education Department, the Director of Medical Service Department, the Director and four qualified members appointed by Bangkok Governor from the persons having knowledge and experience in social works, medicine, psychology and law; one from each field, as members.

The Director of Health Department shall be member and secretary.

Bangkok Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee may appoint not more than two officers of the Health Department to be assistant secretaries.

### **Section 19**

There shall be *Changwat* Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee consisting of *Changwat* Governor as Chairperson, Vice-*Changwat* Governor appointed by *Changwat* Governor as Vice-Chairperson, *Changwat* Police Commander, the Chief of Excise Area appointed by *Changwat* Governor, the Chief of *Changwat* Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office, the Director of Education Area Office appointed by *Changwat* Governor, the Chief of *Changwat* Public Relations Office, the Chief of *Changwat* Social Development and Human Security Office, the Director of Disease Prevention and Control Office responsible for *Changwat's* area, not more than four administrators of local administration within *Changwat's* area appointed by *Changwat* Governor and four qualified members appointed by *Changwat* Governor from persons having knowledge and experience in social works, medicine, psychology and law; one from each field, as members.

The Chief of *Changwat* Public Health Office shall be member and secretary. *Changwat* Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee may appoint not more than two officers of *Changwat* Public Health Office to be assistant secretaries.

### **Section 20**

The provisions of Section 11, Section 12, Section 13 and Section 14 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the term of office, vacation from office, appointment of a member to fulfill the vacancy and the carrying out of duties of the qualified members under Section 18 and Section 19, provided that the power of the Minister under Section 13 (3) shall be the power of Bangkok Governor or *Changwat* Governor, as the case may be.

### **Section 21**

The provisions of Section 7 and Section 9 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meeting and appointment of sub-committee or working group of Bangkok Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee and *Changwat* Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee.

### **Section 22**

Bangkok Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee and *Changwat* Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee shall have the powers and duties within the area of Bangkok Metropolitan or *Changwat*, as the case may be, as follows:

- (1) to give recommendation in relation to measure for controlling alcoholic beverage and treatment or rehabilitation of an alcoholic to the Control Committee;
- (2) to give advice and recommendation to, and coordinate with, State and private agencies relevant to the control of manufacturing, import, sell, advertising and consumption of alcoholic beverage, and to propose preventive measure against the effects of alcoholic beverage consumption including treatment and rehabilitation of an alcoholic;
- (3) to establish practices for monitoring and preventing children and youths in dealing with alcoholic beverage;
- (4) to establish practices which are conformity with policy of the Committee to reduce and stop alcoholic beverage consumption;
- (5) to monitor, evaluate and inspect the execution of law for reduction and stop alcoholic beverage consumption and submit the report thereon to the Control Committee;
- (6) to carry out any duty as entrusted by the Committee or the Control Committee.

### **Section 23**

In the performance of duties under this Act, the members of the Committee and the members of its sub-committee shall be officials under the Penal Code.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **Office of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee**

### **Section 24**

There shall establish the "Office of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee" in the Department of Disease Control, the Ministry of Public Health.

There shall be the Director as superior official and being responsible for the performance of the official affairs of the Office.

### **Section 25**

The Office shall have the powers and duties as follows:

- (1) to be responsible for secretariat work of the Committee and the Control Committee;
- (2) to conduct or provide support for the conduct of study, analysis and research on any matter relating to alcoholic beverage, and to monitor, evaluate and then report the performance of policy, work plan and measure designated for controlling alcoholic beverage and for treatment or rehabilitation of an alcoholic as executed by relevant State and private agencies to the Control Committee for its acknowledgment and further submission to the Committee for consideration;
- (3) to coordinate and cooperate with Bangkok Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee, *Changwat* Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee, government agency and State and private agencies relevant to the control of alcoholic beverage and treatment or rehabilitation of an alcoholic;
- (4) to be central information center on alcoholic beverage;
- (5) to carry out any duty as entrusted by the Committee or the Control Committee.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **Alcoholic Beverage Control**

### **Section 26**

The manufacturer or importer of alcoholic beverage shall act in compliance with the followings:

- (1) provide container, label and warning message for manufactured or imported alcoholic beverage in accordance with the rules, procedure and conditions laid down by the Control Committee with approval of the Committee and published in the Government Gazette;
- (2) to carry out any act determined by the Control Committee with approval of the Committee and published in the Government Gazette.

### **Section 27**

The selling of alcoholic beverage at or within the following places or areas is prohibited:

- (1) temple or any place of worship;
- (2) State public health service unit, infirmary under the law on infirmary and pharmacy under the law on drug;
- (3) public office, except the area designated for the establishment of shop or club;
- (4) dormitory under the law on dormitory;

- (5) education institution under the law on national education;
- (6) petrol station under the law on fuel oil control or shop within petrol station;
- (7) public park provided by the government for public recreation;
- (8) other places notified by the Minister with approval of the Committee.

### **Section 28**

No person shall sell alcoholic beverage on the day or during the period notified by the Minister with approval of the Committee. In this regard, necessary condition or exemption may also be specified therewith.

The provisions of paragraph one shall not apply to the selling of alcoholic beverage by manufacturer, importer or agent of manufacturer or importer to the licensee of sale license under the law on liquor.

### **Section 29**

No person shall sell alcoholic beverage to the following persons:

- (1) a person under twenty years of age;
- (2) a person who lose consciousness due to be drunk.

### **Section 30**

No person shall sell alcoholic beverage through the following practices or manners:

- (1) using automatic vending machine;
- (2) hawking;
- (3) providing discount as sale promotion;
- (4) giving or offering privilege to attend any competition or performance, to provide any service, to join lucky draw or to earn any benefit to the buyer of alcoholic beverage in favor of buying or to the person who exchanges or trades alcoholic beverage with its package, label or anything related therewith;
- (5) dispersing, providing, giving or exchanging with alcoholic beverage or any goods or services, as the case may be, or distributing alcoholic beverage in form of sample or in order to promote alcoholic beverage consumption of the public, including the determination of sale condition as compulsory buying, whether direct or indirect manner, of alcoholic beverage;
- (6) any other practice or manner notified by the Minister with advice of the Committee.

### **Section 31**

No person shall drink alcoholic beverage at or within the following places or areas:

- (1) temple or any place of worship, except where drinking thereof is a part of worship;
- (2) State public health service unit, infirmary under the law on infirmary and pharmacy under the law on drug, except the area designated as living area of individual;
- (3) public office, except the area designated for the establishment of shop or club or in case of conventional banquet;
- (4) education institution under the law on national education, except the area designated as living area of individual or club or in case of conventional banquet or education institution providing the course relevant to the mixing of alcoholic beverage which having been permitted under the law on national education;
- (5) petrol station under the law on fuel oil control or shop within petrol station;
- (6) public park provided by the government for public recreation;
- (7) other places notified by the Minister with approval of the Committee.



### **Section 32**

No person shall advertise or display, directly or indirectly, name or trademark of alcoholic beverage in a manner that showing properties thereof or inducing other person to drink.

Advertisement or public relations provided by the manufacturer of any kind of alcoholic beverage shall only be made for giving information thereof or giving social creative knowledge without displaying illustration of such alcoholic beverage or its package, except for the display of symbol of such alcoholic beverage or that of its manufacturer as prescribed by the Ministerial Regulation.

The provisions of paragraph one and paragraph two shall not apply to the advertisement broadcasted from outside of the Kingdom.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **Treatment or Rehabilitation of an Alcoholic**

### **Section 33**

An alcoholic or his relatives or a group of persons or State or non-governmental organization having objective in providing treatment or rehabilitation to an alcoholic may apply for treatment or rehabilitation support from the Office in accordance with the rules, procedure and conditions laid down by the Control Committee.

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **Competent Official**

### **Section 34**

In the performance of duties under this Act, the competent official shall have the powers and duties as follows:

- (1) to enter into the place of business of the manufacturer, importer or seller of alcoholic beverage, the place for manufacture, import or sell of alcoholic beverage and the store of alcoholic beverage during working hours of those places, and to search any vehicle for the execution of this Act;
- (2) to seize or attach alcoholic beverage of the manufacturer, importer or seller who violates or fails to comply with this Act;
- (3) to summon, in writing, any person to give statement or to submit any document or object for consideration.

### **Section 35**

The competent official shall, in the performance of duties under this Act, produce identification card to the licensee or concerned person.

Identification card of the competent official shall be in the form as notified by the Minister.

### **Section 36**

In the performance of duties of the competent official under Section 34, the concerned person shall render appropriate facilities thereto.

### **Section 37**

In the performance of duties under this Act, the competent official shall be the official under the Penal Code.

## **CHAPTER VII**

### **Penalties**

#### **Section 38**

A manufacturer or importer of alcoholic beverage who fails to comply with Section 26 shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding one year or to a fine of not exceeding one hundred thousand Baht or to both.

#### **Section 39**

Whoever sells alcoholic beverage in violation of Section 27 or Section 28 shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding six months or to a fine of not exceeding ten thousand Baht or to both.

#### **Section 40**

Whoever sells alcoholic beverage in violation of Section 29 or Section 30 (1) shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding one year or to a fine of not exceeding twenty thousand Baht or to both.

#### **Section 41**

Whoever violates Section 30 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding six months or to a fine of not exceeding ten thousand Baht or to both.

#### **Section 42**

Whoever violates Section 31 shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding six months or to a fine of not exceeding ten thousand Baht or to both.

#### **Section 43**

Whoever violates Section 32 shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding one year or to a fine of not exceeding five hundred thousand Baht or to both.

In addition to the liability under paragraph one, the violator shall be liable to a daily fine of not exceeding fifty thousand Baht a day through the period of violation or until acting correctly.

#### **Section 44**

Whoever fights with, or obstructs the performance of duties of, the competent official under Section 34 (1) or (2) shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding one year or to a fine of not exceeding twenty thousand Baht or to both.

Whoever fails to come giving, or fails to give, statement to the competent official in the performance of duties under Section 34 (3), or fails to submit document or object summoned by the competent official under Section 34 (3), shall be liable to a fine of not exceeding twenty thousand Baht.

Whoever fails to render facilities to the competent official under Section 36 shall be liable to a fine of not exceeding two thousand Baht.

#### **Section 45**

The offenses under this Act may be settled by the Control Committee. In this regard, the Control Committee may entrust a subcommittee, an inquiry official or a competent official to settle the case and may determine, as necessary, the rules for conducting settlement or any condition to be complied with by the entrusted person.

If it appears to the inquiry official, during an inquiry, that any person commits an offence under this Act and such person agrees to settle the case, the inquiry official shall submit the file to the Control Committee or the person entrusted by the Control Committee to

conduct settlement under paragraph one within seven days as from the date that such person agrees to settle the case.

If the offender pays the fine in an amount as settled, the case is deemed to be settled under the Criminal Procedure Code.

Countersigned by

General Surayud Chulanont

Prime Minister

**Notes:** The reason for the promulgation of this Act is that it is recognized that alcohol beverage has caused health, family, accident, and criminal problems, which affect the overall social and economic condition of the country. It is deemed expedient to stipulate measures for control of alcohol beverage as well as treatment or rehabilitation of the alcoholics in order to reduce social and economic impacts and improve public health by making people realize the dangers of alcohol beverage and protect children and youths against easy access to alcohol beverage. It is, therefore, necessary to promulgate this Act.

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#### **Disclaimer**

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