

Explanation

Educational profession is considered a highly respected profession which requires knowledge and specialization without any overlaps with those of other professions, and also influences its clients and the public. Thus, the practice of such profession needs to be specifically controlled. Therefore, persons intending to practice this profession shall have undergone quite a long period both theoretical and practical study to ensure that they have knowledge and skills to practice the profession by way of an intellectual method, enjoy professional autonomy and adhere to the professional ethics, whereby a professional institution or professional organization would serve as a center of constructing and developing the profession.

In addition to the foregoing roles, educational professional practitioners also play a vital role to society and the prosperity of the country, as follows:

1. Producing good citizens for the country by providing them with basic education that makes them become good citizens as anticipated by the country.
2. Developing human resources in response to the economic and social development of the country.
3. Passing on national traditions and cultures from generation to generation to preserve and perpetuate the national legacy.

To ensure that the educational profession shall have professional standards required for such a highly respected profession, the National Education Act B.E. 2542 (1999) therefore specifies to establish an organization for the professions of teachers and educational personnel, to perform the duty to set professional standards, issue and revoke professional licenses, oversee and monitor to ensure compliance with the professional standards and ethics, including professional development. In addition, the Teachers and Educational Personnel Council Act B.E. 2546 (2003), as a law governing educational profession, regards the educational profession as a licensed profession, consisting of:

1. Teachers;
2. Educational institution administrators;
3. Educational administrators;
4. Other licensed professions as specified in the ministerial regulations.

Following the publication of the Teachers and Educational Personnel Council Act B.E. 2546 (2003) in the Government Gazette on June 11, 2003, which came into effect on June 12, 2003, the “Teachers Council of Thailand” was thus established as the Teachers and Educational Personnel Council, to perform the powers and duties to set professional standards and ethics, as well as to oversee and supervise the practice of educational profession. In undertaking the operation within the scope of its roles, powers and duties, the Teachers Council of Thailand has set and compiled subordinate legislations relating to the educational professional practice. The intentions and objectives of the respective laws are summarized in the first part hereof, as follows:

Teachers and Educational Personnel Council Act B.E. 2546 (2003)

This law stipulates that the Teachers and Educational Personnel Council shall be established and called the “Teachers Council of Thailand”, a legal entity under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, with the powers and duties to set professional standards and ethics; to supervise the conduct and performance of educational professional practitioners to comply with the professional standards and ethics; to issue professional licenses to applicants; to suspend or revoke licenses; and to develop the professions; including the composition and powers and duties of the Teachers Council of Thailand Board and the Professional Standards Committee, the operations of the Teachers Council of Thailand and the practice of licensed profession. Its objective is to stipulate to treat the professions of teachers, educational institution administrators, educational administrators and other educational personnel as licensed profession, provided that such professional practitioners shall obtain licenses to practice the educational profession and meet the professional standards and ethics. Any person practicing the educational profession without a professional practice license or without permission from the Teachers Council of Thailand may be liable to imprisonment or fine.

Ministerial Regulation on Practice of Licensed Profession B.E. 2549 (2006)

This Ministerial Regulation is intended to stipulate that the educational supervision profession shall be a licensed profession by virtue of the law on teachers and educational personnel council.

Regulation of the Teachers Council of Thailand on Professional Practice License B.E. 2547 (2004)

This Regulation is intended to set rules for application for license to practice the educational profession, by requiring that those who intend to practice the educational profession shall possess the qualifications and have no prohibited characteristics as specified, procedures for application for registration of licenses and issuance of licenses, term and renewal of licenses, issuance of substitute licenses, application for change of information of registration and licenses, including appeal in case the Teachers Council of Thailand does not issue a license.

Notification of the Ministry of Education on Determination of Fee Rates for Educational Professional Practice

This Notification is intended to set fee rates for educational professional practice in accordance with the fee rates attached to the Teachers and Educational Personnel Council Act B.E. 2546 (2003). The Notification also stipulates that fees for application for registration of various types of licenses, application for renewal of professional practice licenses, letter of approval or certificate of professional knowledge and expertise, and application for substitute licenses, shall be paid in accordance with this Notification.

Notification of the Teachers Council of Thailand Board on Rules and Procedures for Testing and Evaluation of Knowledge of Foreigners in Applying for License to Practice the Teaching Profession B.E.2549 (2006)

This Notification is intended to set qualifications of foreigners wishing to apply for licenses to practice the teaching profession and rules for testing and evaluation of knowledge of foreigners applying for licenses to practice the teaching

profession as well as the period for submission of applications for foreigners who have been teachers in educational institutions prior to the effective date of the Teachers and Educational Personnel Council Act B.E. 2546 (2003), including the required documentary evidence in support of the application for a license to practice the teaching profession.

Regulation of the Teachers Council of Thailand on Professional Standards and Ethics B.E. 2548 (2005)

This Regulation is intended to stipulate that educational professional practitioners shall have knowledge and understanding in the practice of educational profession, which is a licensed profession, to meet the professional standards and ethics, so as to guarantee and provide protection for clients to obtain quality education, as well as developing and upgrading the professional standards, like other highly respected professions. Educational professional practitioners are therefore required to comply with the Standards of Professional Knowledge and Experience, Standards of Performance and Standards of Conduct, which comprise personal ethics, professional ethics, client centered ethics, collegial ethics and societal ethics.

Notification of the Teachers Council of Thailand Board on Essence of Knowledge and Competencies for Teachers, Educational Institution Administrators and Educational Administrators in accordance with the Standards of Professional Knowledge and Experience

This Notification is intended to specify details of essence of knowledge and competencies for those who practice the profession of teachers, educational institution administrators and educational administrators in accordance with the standards of professional knowledge and experience pursuant to the Regulation of the Teachers Council of Thailand on Professional Standards and Ethics B.E. 2548 (2005).

Notification of the Teachers Council of Thailand Board on Standards of Knowledge, Standards of Professional Experience, Essence of Knowledge, Competencies and Standards of Performance of Educational Supervisors

This Notification is intended to specify details of standards of knowledge, standards of professional experience, essence of knowledge, competencies and standards of performance for those who practice the profession of educational supervisors pursuant to the Regulations of the Teachers Council of Thailand on Professional Standards and Ethics B.E. 2548 (2005).

Notification of the Teachers Council of Thailand Board on Standards of Training Courses for Educational Institution Administrators in accordance with Professional Standards

This Notification is intended to set standards of training courses for educational institution administrators in accordance with the professional standards, which is the criteria for the Teachers Council of Thailand Board to certify the training courses for educational institution administrators in accordance with the standards of professional knowledge and experience of educational institution administrators pursuant to the Regulation of the Teachers Council of Thailand on Professional Standards and Ethics B.E. 2548 (2005), and also serves as part of the qualifications in respect of the standards of knowledge of applicants for licenses to practice the profession of educational institution administrators pursuant to the Regulation of the Teachers Council of Thailand on Professional Practice License B.E. 2547 (2004). The standards of such courses comprise course objectives, course structure, training styles and methods, qualifications of trainees, evaluation, as well as standards of the training unit and issuance of certificates, etc.

Notification of the Teachers Council of Thailand Board on Accreditation of Educational Degrees and Diplomas for Professional Practice

This Notification is intended to set criteria for accreditation of educational degrees and diplomas for practice of the educational profession, by specifying accreditation criteria which comprise three standards, namely, Curriculum Standard, Production Standard and Graduate Standard; and specifying such persons who have the duty to evaluate; the accreditation of degrees or diplomas or otherwise called; and procedures for educational institutions providing education according to such curriculums to have their Curriculum Standards and Production Standards evaluated; composition of the subcommittee for such evaluation; evaluation of the Graduate Standard; and composition of the committee on evaluation of Graduate Standard, including the accreditation validity period for the Curriculum Standards and Production Standards.

Notification of the Teachers Council of Thailand Board on Criteria of Qualifications of Educational Institutions for Teaching Operations

This Notification is intended to specify qualifications of educational institutions for teaching operations of applicants for license to practice the educational profession, provided that they shall have undergone the teaching operations in educational institutions under the educational degree curriculum for a minimum of

one year and passed the criteria for evaluation of the teaching operations in accordance with the specified rules, procedures and conditions. Any institution which provides educational courses under the educational degree curriculum (5 years) shall submit a list of educational institutions in its network to the Teachers Council of Thailand for consideration and approval. Any change or addition to the list of educational institutions shall be proposed by the institution to the Teachers Council of Thailand Board for further consideration and approval, including in case of any noncompliance with the rules, etc.