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IP KNOWLEDGE EXTRACT



VIETNAM STRENGTHENS COPYRIGHT ENFORCEMENT THROUGH NEW INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

By Uyen Ngo, Nguyen Hoa Binh, et al.

What's New

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Overview

Vietnam has taken another step towards strengthening its intellectual property enforcement framework following the issuance of Decision No. 2558/QD-BVHTTDL on September 30, 2026. The Decision, which took effect immediately, defines the functions, responsibilities, powers and organisational structure of the newly renamed Cultural Industries and Copyright Office, formerly known as the Copyright Office of Vietnam.

The restructuring reflects the Government's efforts to streamline administrative functions while strengthening the protection of copyright and related rights, particularly in the digital environment.

Expanded Authority in Copyright Enforcement

One of the most significant developments under Decision 2558 is the Office's expanded role in copyright enforcement.

Previously, copyright inspections and administrative enforcement were primarily undertaken by the Inspectorates of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and other competent authorities. The former Copyright Office mainly provided technical assistance, expert opinions and coordination support.

Under the revised framework, the Cultural Industries and Copyright Office is expressly authorised to take the lead in examining compliance with copyright legislation and handling infringements in coordination with relevant authorities.

Importantly, the Office may also require intermediary service providers to remove or disable access to content infringing copyright or related rights. This authority is particularly relevant to online piracy, where infringing materials can be rapidly distributed through digital platforms.

Reorganisation of the Copyright Administration

The institutional changes extend beyond the Office's enforcement powers.

Following Decree No. 298/2026/ND-CP, the former Copyright Office of Vietnam has been renamed the Cultural Industries and Copyright Office to reflect its broader responsibilities in developing and managing Vietnam's cultural industries.

Decision 2558 also renames the former Division for Management and International Cooperation on Copyright and Related Rights as the Division for Copyright Management and Enforcement.

This adjustment signals a stronger institutional emphasis on enforcement alongside the Office's traditional regulatory and administrative responsibilities.



Implications for Copyright Owners

The revised framework provides copyright owners with a clearer institutional channel for addressing infringement, particularly cases involving unauthorised online distribution and intermediary service providers.

The changes may facilitate more direct engagement with the Cultural Industries and Copyright Office when seeking administrative intervention against infringing activities.

Nevertheless, practical implementation will depend on the development and application of relevant enforcement procedures, including coordination between the Office and other competent authorities.

Rights holders should therefore continue to assess the appropriate enforcement mechanisms on a case-by-case basis while monitoring further regulatory guidance.

Conclusion

Decision 2558 forms part of Vietnam's broader restructuring of intellectual property enforcement authorities. Similar changes have been introduced in the industrial property sector under Decree No. 186/2026/ND-CP, which assigns additional administrative enforcement responsibilities to the Intellectual Property Office of Vietnam.

These developments indicate a shift towards placing enforcement responsibilities more directly within specialised intellectual property authorities.

Although questions remain regarding the practical division of responsibilities, the reforms establish a clearer foundation for copyright enforcement and may contribute to more effective protection of intellectual property rights in Vietnam.

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Lawyers and Consultants

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info@daitin.com.vn | www.daitin.com.vn

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