**Regulation on Authorisation of Literary and Artistic Works Published in the Maldives.**

**(Unofficial Translation)**

1. (a) This regulation outlines the procedures and rules for authorisation of literature, prior to publication in the Maldives.

(b) This regulation shall be called “Regulation on Authorisation of Literary and Artistic Works Published in the Maldives.”

1. The objective of this regulation is:
2. To standardize all literature (literary and artistic works) publicized and published in the Maldives in accordance with laws and regulations of the Maldives and its societal etiquette.
3. To reduce adverse effects on society that could be caused by published literature.
4. When authorising literature, freedom of speech and expression provided under the Maldivian Constitution, or constructive novel ideas shall not be restricted.
5. This regulation shall be in effect as soon as it is published on the government gazette.
6. If the National Bureau of Classification (the Bureau) alters the meaning of any literary work during vetting and authorisation, such literature shall be re-submitted to the Bureau.

**Publishing books.**

1. (a) Books shall be published in the Maldives after submitting it to the Bureau and attaining authorisation.

(b) The following shall be exempted from requirements stated under sub-article (a) of this Article. Any writing published to circulate information among its members/employees by a political party, civil society group, company, or specific governmental body.

1. In order to authorise publication of books according to this regulation, the following shall be considered.

(a) A copy of the book to be authorised. This copy shall be finalised and ready for publication. (Including size and colours of the book.)

(b) Publication Application Form. (This form shall be completed.)

1. 50/- (Fifty) Maldivian Ruffiya revenue stamp.
2. A book authorised according to this Regulation must have its initial published copy submitted to the Bureau prior to (mass) publication and circulation.

**ISB numbering.**

1. There shall be an ISB number on all books published in the Maldives. In order to request for an ISB number, the ISB Number Application Form shall be completed and submitted to the Bureau.
2. ISB numbering in accordance with this Regulation shall be done as follows:
3. On the page that follows the front cover of the book (verso page).
4. Bottom of the back cover of the book.
5. The font size shall be 9 (Nine).

**Authorising poetry and prose.**

1. (a) Poetry shall be publicized in the Maldives only after submitting it to the Bureau and attaining authorisation.
2. Under sub-article (a) of this Article, “publicized” is defined to include the following; publishing poetry in writing in any manner, recording it, selling it as a studio album, including it in a film or documentary, broadcasting or telecasting, publicizing it on the internet, and or publicizing it as a ringtone.
3. In order to authorise poetry according to this regulation, the following shall be completed:

(a) An original and copy of the poetry to be authorised shall be submitted. (A signature of a member from the “Registry of Literature/Art Authorisers” shall be printed on the original and copy.)

(b) Poetry Authorisation Application Form. (This form shall be completed.)

1. 50/- (Fifty) Maldivian Ruffiya revenue stamp.
2. The Bureau shall have a “Registry of Literature/Art Authorisers”. Under this Registry, all individuals skilled in the arts shall be listed according to their specialisation. Books and poetry shall be authorised in the Maldives as per decisions made by members of this Registry.
3. Members of the Registry of Literature/Art Authorisers shall fulfil following criteria, he or she shall:
4. Be a Maldivian citizen
5. Be a Sunni Muslim
6. Be above the age of 30
7. If he or she has been convicted of a crime, 5 years must have passed since serving the sentence or being pardoned.
8. Have 10 (ten) years of experience or academic qualification in the area of work submitted for authorisation.

**Registry of individuals authorized to approve literary and artistic works.**

1. The members of the Registry of Literature/Art Authorisers should carry out their work in consideration of the following:

(a) To ensure that the works published in the Maldives do not contravene Islamic principles, the laws and regulations of the Maldives and societal etiquette.

(b) To reduce adverse effects on society that could be caused by published literature.

(c) To respect the constitutional right to freedom of expression and allow novel and constructive ideas.

**Penalties and fines.**

1. (a) If not stated otherwise this regulation, it is prohibited to publish any work stated in the regulation without authorization and approval by the Bureau. Any party found to have violated this regulation shall be fined between 500/- (Five Hundred Maldivian Rufiyya) to 5000/- (Five Thousand Maldivian Rufiyya).

(b) If a party is found to have violated the regulation as stated in Article 16, sub-article (a), the above stipulated penalty shall be enforced and shall be fined by an amount not exceeding 1000/- (One Thousand Maldivian Rufiyya) at each instance.

(c) If a work authorised by this regulation is published, and if a court of law finds it to have disinformation, the authorisation for the publication will be revoked. Requests made by the penalised party for authorisation of new works according this Regulation shall only commence in the following order, after fines have been fully paid.

            1. First offence, after one year

            2. Second offence, after three years

            3. Third offence, after five years

**Interpretation.**

1. The terminology used in this regulation shall be interpreted as following, unless otherwise stipulated in this regulation.

(a)  “Poetry” shall be defined as words and phrases structured into verses that fit a particular form, expressing thoughts and ideas that are heartfelt, like ‘*kaa’*, ‘*bandhi’*, ‘*raivaru’*, ‘*farihi’* and ‘*anbaa’*.

(b)  “Book” shall be defined to include any writing, photography, drawing or painting that is unbound or bonded together on one side, in pages of a uniformed shape and size, with a cover-page, or any such material that can be read digitally and or electronically.

(c)  “Publicizing” shall be defined as releasing of any such material to the public and circulating it publicly.

(d)  “Publication” shall be defined as any writing, photo or drawing that has been made publicly accessible electronically or by way of printing.

(e)  “Registry of Literature/Art Authorisers” shall be defined as the “Registry of individuals authorized to approve literary and artistic works” created at the National Bureau of Classification.