

Regulating online streaming services – comparing countries at a glance

	Canada		US	Mexico		EU Level.	UK	Australia	
	Current	Proposed		Current	Proposed	Member States may differ		Current	Proposed
Media Regulation: Online Linear Service	Almost entirely unregulated CRTC Digital Media Exemption Order	To be regulated: “Level playing field” with traditional broadcasters; considering role and size. Broadcasting Act as Amended – see Bill C-10	Unregulated	Unregulated	Regulation considered: March 2020 proposal : 30% local content quota February 2021 proposal : 15% local content quota and prominence	Regulated (EU based head office and editorial decisions). Includes: “Majority” European content quota and prominence; harmful content; ad rules	Regulated only if carried on a Regulated EPG , a platform that lists / promotes, and provides access to programmes / programme services. Includes “Majority” European content quota; harmful content; ad rules.	Regulated as online content service (limited regulation). Includes industry codes, standards; ad rules; content classification. Not regulated as “broadcasting service” (broader regulation).	To be regulated: “Harmonise” regulation between Internet, traditional broadcasters; considering role (creator / provider / platform).
Media Regulation: Online On-Demand Service	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	Regulated (EU based head office, editorial decisions). Includes: 30% European content quotas and prominence; harmful content; ad rules	Regulated only if UK based head office, editorial decisions. Includes: Ofcom fees; harmful content; ad rules	As above	As above
Licensing	No	No – but potential registration	No	No	No	No	Only if regulated	No	No
Sector-specific foreign ownership restrictions	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Dates to watch	Fall 2021-2022: Government to reintroduce Broadcasting Act amendments to regulate online services.		N/A	Fourth quarter 2021: Federal Institute of Telecommunications (IFT) Economic Competition Unit to publish study on OTT services		Fall 2021: European Commission calls on 9 remaining Member States to implement Directive	Fall 2021-2022: Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport consulting on “audience protection standards” for VOD	September 2022: Expiry of 2019 Determination excluding internet services from regulation as “broadcasting services”.	

For more information:

Canada: [Altering the broadcasting landscape – Canada’s Broadcasting Act to be amended](#)

EU: [Changes to the EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive – what does it mean for the media market?](#)

Mexico: [Mexico – Latest Legislative Developments on Video Streaming Services](#)