

Client Alert



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Thailand Introduces New Visa Extension Regulations

Further to our previous alert regarding stringent measures by Thai authorities to clamp down on tourist visa abuse, new regulations on visa extension were introduced by the Order of the Royal Thai Police No. 327/2557. Effective 29 August 2014, the order prescribes criteria and conditions for consideration of an alien's application for an extension of temporary stay in the Kingdom of Thailand.

Previously, visitors from countries which are exempt from obtaining a tourist visa when entering Thailand, including Australia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, United Kingdom, and United States of America, could stay in Thailand for a period not exceeding 30 days per visit. Now, the new regulations permit visitors from these countries, as well as those entering Thailand with tourist visas, to apply once for an additional 30 day extension of stay without having to leave the country. It should be noted, however, that the period of extension in total cannot exceed 30 days from the expiration date and is subject to the discretion of the authorities.

Visitors who have already applied for and obtained this extension to stay are unlikely to have their visit extended again upon return to the Kingdom shortly after leaving, subject to the discretion of the official.

In conjunction with the announcement, the Royal Thai Police also issued an order specifying documents required for application for extension under each visa category, and additional documents may be requested by immigration authorities. Visitors intending to apply for extension of temporary stay should plan well in advance before their current visas expire in order to avoid incomplete documentation and disciplinary actions from overstaying their visas.

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