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CHONBURI (PATTAYA) IMMIGRATION OFFICE NEWS

The Pattaya City Expats Club endeavors to stay abreast of the latest news regarding the procedures and requirements of the Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration Office located on Jomtien Beach Soi 5. The latest information that we receive will be reported here and may reflect changes from what is included in the Visa & Immigration section of the website (this information will be included in the next updates to that section of the website).

To help us keep this information up to date for the benefit of our fellow Expats, we request that you let us know of any changes in requirements or procedures that you may encounter at the Chonburi Immigration Office.

For updates or additional information, contact Darrel Vaught at: Darrel-pcec@inbox.com or info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com.

► **Immigration Advice** - Barry Kenyon, assistant information officer at Chonburi Immigration, visits the club on the first Sunday in every month to answer any immigration questions you may individually have. He is there for a half hour slot from 11.30 am till noon and sits outside on the terrace, with immigration ID. Please approach him directly if you need assistance and, preferably, bring along your passport

► **Extending your stay in Thailand:** First, let's get a bit technical. A Visa is permission to enter the country. Visas for Thailand are issued by Thai Embassies/Consulates outside of Thailand with one exception mentioned below. When entering Thailand, you receive from Thai Immigration a Permitted to Stay Until (date) stamp in your passport (this is not a visa, it is a permission to stay). The amount of time you are permitted to stay will depend on whether you entered with no visa (Visa Exempt) or the type of visa you have. If you apply at Thai Immigration in Thailand to stay past the date stamped in your passport, you are applying for an Extension of Permission to Stay (not an extension of a visa).

YOU NO LONGER COME BACK FOR YOUR PASSPORT – We have received several reports since November 2011 that Chonburi Immigration has changed the process. A lady sitting next to the Sgt. at Desk 6 will now take your documents and enter information into the computer before collecting your fee and giving your packet to the Sgt. He will affix the required stamps in your passport. The Lady Captain that sits behind him will review the documents, sign the extension stamp, and give you back your passport – everything completed.

THAI USING A FOREIGN PASSPORT – GETTING A LONG STAY EXTENSION – One of our members recently brought to our attention that Thai Immigration will provide a one year extension of their stay to a Thai that is the holder of a foreign passport and entered Thailand using that passport. If they have a Thai Identification card and are registered in a Thai House Book they can receive a one year extension of stay. They do not have to

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have entered Thailand on or obtained a Non-Immigrant Visa as others must. There is no financial resource requirement or that they be married to the foreign holder of a long stay visa (retiree, education, business, etc.). They complete the form TM.7 application for an extension of stay and pay a fee of 1,900 Baht to obtain the one year extension.

► **90 Day Address Reporting:** All foreigners staying in Thailand over 90 days, must report their address to Thai Immigration. **REQUIRED SINCE AUGUST 1** - Barry Kenyon announced at the August 1 meeting that Immigration Headquarters has instructed their Offices to require additional documentation to be submitted with the TM 47 - 90 day address report. We have received reports that these requirements are in effect – if you don't have the additional documents, you will be asked to provide them to complete the address reporting process – the documents are:

- **Copy of passport Face Page**
- **Copy of latest Immigration Permission to Stay Stamp**
- **Copy of TM Departure Card (this is the white card that should be stapled in your passport)**
- **Copy of a document verifying your address (lease, utility bill, telephone bill, cable bill, etc.)**

► **Obtaining a Re-Entry Permit:** If you are in Thailand on an extended stay stamp, you will need to get a re-entry permit if you want to leave Thailand and keep your permission to stay stamp valid. If you leave and do not have a re-entry stamp, your existing permission to stay period is canceled.

- Re-Entry Permits are 1,000 Baht for single and 3,800 Baht for multiple. The re-entry permit will have an expiration date, which is the date shown on your latest permission to stay stamp.
- **NOTE:** If you plan to be out of Thailand on your permission to stay expiration date and you go in early to renew your extension, you will also [need to get a new re-entry permit after you renew your extension to stay](#) - that way, the re-entry permit will show your renewed extension date as the expiration date.
- You will need the application for re-entry permit, a copy of your passport face page, your permission to stay date stamp page, your departure card (usually stapled to your passport on last entry into Thailand), and 4cm x 6 cm size photo.
- **RECENT NEW PROCEDURE:** When you pay the fee, they tell you to take your seat and you need to look at the right side at a TV monitor, which will display, in giant letters, your ticket #. When you see it, proceed to the monitor desk. They will appear in seconds with your receipt and your stamped passport. An improvement as previously you had to listen carefully for them to call out your name.

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- 1. I will be out of Thailand when my next 90 day address report is due at Thai Immigration, will this be a problem?**

No. The requirement to report your address is if you remain in Thailand for 90 days since you entered Thailand or since your last address report. If you leave before that due date, you have not remained in Thailand for 90 days, so no report is due. When you return, you will be required to report your address if you remain in Thailand for 90 days since you re-entered. *For example, your next 90 day address report is due on February 2, 2012 (90 days from your last report). You leave Thailand on January 16, 2012, so you have no reporting requirement as it has been less than 90 days. If you return to Thailand on March 1, 2012, your next address reporting date will be May 30, 2012; 90 days from your last entry into Thailand.*

- 2. If I entered Thailand on a 30 day stay (Visa Exempt) or a 60 day stay (Tourist Visa) can I apply for a one year extension of stay based on retirement?**

Yes, but it is a two step process. One of the requirements for a long stay extension is that you have a Non-Immigrant Visa. Normally this must be obtained from a Thai Embassy or Consulate which are located outside of Thailand. There is one exception. If you meet the age and financial resource requirements for a one year extension based on retirement, you can apply for a Non-Immigrant "O" Visa from an Immigration Office in Thailand. After you receive the Visa stamp and pay the 2,000 Baht fee, you will also receive a permission to stay stamp for 90 days. You then apply for a one year extension. The fee is 1,900 Baht and the new permission to stay stamp will be one year from the end of the 90 day period (making the first renewal date 15 months later). You will need one photo and a photocopy of your passport identity page, Tourist Visa if applicable, Entry stamp, and your TM.6 Departure card (stapled in passport when you entered Thailand) for the Non-Immigrant Visa. You will need another set along with the other required documentation for a retirement extension (click here for latest ["checklist"](#) showing documents needed for extension).

- 3. If my spouse does not meet either the age and/or financial requirements for a retirement extension, can they also get an extension of stay?**

Yes, but your spouse must have entered Thailand using a Non-Immigrant Visa. A spouse of a retiree can obtain an extension of stay without having to meet the age and financial requirements for an extension based on retirement. The spouse must have entered Thailand on a Non-Immigrant Visa (usually Type "O" that can be obtained from a Thai Embassy or Consulate outside of Thailand). A spouse "piggy backing" on their spouses retirement extension cannot, like their spouse, obtain a Non-Immigrant "O" Visa from Thai Immigration in Thailand. However, if they do meet the age and financial resources requirement, they can apply for their own retirement extension – see 1 above. Once your spouse has received their initial extension of stay, they can continue to renew it on an annual basis without the need to leave Thailand.

4. How can my spouse get a Non-Immigrant “O” Visa at a Thai Embassy or Consulate?

If you have applied for a Non-Immigrant “O-A” Visa at an Embassy/Consulate in your home country (long stay for retirement in Thailand), you should apply at the same time for a Non-Immigrant “O” Visa for your spouse. If you and your spouse entered Thailand as Visa Exempt or using a Tourist Visa, you will need to go through the two step process mentioned in 1 above. Once you have the one year extension, your spouse can go to a Thai Embassy/Consulate in a neighboring country and apply for a Non-Immigrant “O” Visa (will require documentation to show you are married and that you have obtained the one year extension of stay) -- Caution: if you accompany your spouse, be sure to obtain a Re-Entry Permit from Thai Immigration before you depart Thailand – otherwise your newly acquired Non-Immigrant “O” Visa and extension will be canceled (Re-Entry permit fee is 1,000 Baht for single and 3,800 Baht for multiple). When your spouse obtains the Non-Immigrant “O” Visa and returns to Thailand, they will receive a 90 day permission to stay. Your spouse will then need to go to Immigration and apply for a one year extension (your spouse will need to provide documentation that you have been granted a one year extension of stay and a copy of marriage certificate to show the spousal relationship).