INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT ISSUED IN THAILAND

If you have a valid Thai driving license and wish to use it when traveling outside of Thailand in countries that accept International Driving Permits (IDPs), you can obtain the Thai issued IDP at some Land Transport Offices.

A Thai IDP cannot be used to drive in Thailand and is valid for one year from the date of issue or the expiration of your Thai driving license if it expires in less than one year.

Only certain Land Transport Offices can issue them – address and directions for Chonburi Provincial and Bangkok Land Transport Offices follow along with information provided by members on obtaining the IDP.

CHON BURI LAND TRANSPORT OFFICE

You can apply for the IDP at the Chonburi Land Transport Office, 147 Moo 1, Sukhumvit Road, Tambon Nong Muang, Chonburi. Driver License Division telephone number 038-275-202 or 038-286-227. The Banglamung Land Transport Office, which issues Thai driving licenses does not issue IDPs at the present time.

Document required vary depending on whether you currently have a one year Thai driving license or a five year Thai driving license. Complete the Application Form and have with you (see below for reports from members on the process) the following:

1. Your passport and copy of passport 1 page (copy of face page, Thai visa page, and last entry stamp).
2. The affidavit of the address from embassy or immigration.
3. Medical certificate (holders of 1 year license only).
4. Two (2) photos (the size required for most passports)
5. Fee is 505 Baht.

Note: For item 2, it is usually easier and less expensive to obtain a Residence Letter from Thai Immigration. The Chon Buri (Pattaya) Immigration Office will provide the letter for 300 Baht. Information on documents required can be found on the driving license checklist (go to page 5 of the checklist).
BANGKOK LAND TRANSPORT OFFICE

You will need the same documents and fee listed for the Chonburi Land Transport Office. You must apply in person at the Vehicle Registration Division of the Department of Land Transport, which is located in Bangkok at Building #4, 2nd floor, 1032 Soi Pawatyoithm, Ladpow, Chattuchak, Bangkok 10900. The phone number for the Land Transport Office is 02-272-3618. It is suggested that you call in advance to double check the location and requirements for the License, and the days and hours of operation when the license may be issued.

Directions – In Bangkok, you can take the sky train or subway to Mo Chit station. When you exit, take a taxi to the Land Transport Office. It is about 10 minute from the Chattuchak Weekend Market.

The process - Present your documents at the information desk for verification, and complete the application for the International Driving Permit. Go to the directed window and leave your documents in the in-box. Your name will be called in about 30 minutes. Pay the fee and receive your license.

MEMBER REPORTS ON EXPERIENCE AT CHONBURI LAND TRANSPORT OFFICE

Report from Member in April 2018

Click here to read his report.

Report from Member in July 2012

Over the phone, I was given the following information:

Holders of a temporary (1 yr license) need
1. Your passport and copy of passport 1 page.
2. The affidavit of the address from embassy or immigration.
3. Medical certificate.

Holders of a 5 years license need
1. Your passport and copy of passport 1 page.
2. The affidavit of the address from embassy or immigration.
3. One hour of training there.

I went there this morning with my 5 yr license, copies and passport and address document from the Immigration. It's a big complex with many buildings.

I accidentally walked into Bldg #2 and that's where they were processing drivers licences. People at the information desk knew what I needed. They collected my documents and copies and gave me a number. 10-15 minutes later, my number was called, 505 Baht were collected and I had to wait another 20-30 minutes while they prepared the IDP.

As a side note, I stopped by the Banglamung office to see if they could process it. They also knew what I was talking about and gave me phone number of the Chonburi office.

Overall, very positive experience dealing with Land Transportation Office(s) in Thailand. Thumbs up for helpful, efficient and courteous people working there.
Click here for a Google map with Chonburi’s Land Transportation Office:

**NOTE:** The legend and street names in the above link to a map are all in Thai. For narrative directions and GPS coordinates, read the following Member report:

Previous Report about Chonburi Land Transport Office from another Member

Proceed to the Chonburi Land Transport Office - Present all your documents at the information desk on the Ground Floor and fill out an Application. They will give you a number and, when called, go the indicated window.

Have following with you:

1) Completed Application
2) Original Passport with a copy of the face page, your most recent visa and the Immigration Arrival Stamp from your last reentry.
3) 2 Passport size photos
4) Original Residence Certificate
5) 505 Baht

After verification and payment, the clerk at the window will tell you how long to wait—usually 30-60 minutes. In my case, it was 1 hour. Tip—this building is not air conditioned. Go to the building directly across (Auto Registrations) and wait in the lobby. To the side of this other building, there’s a Xerox copy place and a food and drinks store.

**Directions To Land Office** – I live north of Sri Racha so the directions start at the Sriracha Mall on Sukhumvit (Robinson’s Dept. Store). Go about 20 kms. on Sukhumvit. Eventually, you will see Carrefour and Big C on your right. From Big C go 1.2 kms. and bear left at the sign that says Chonburi Bypass. Go about 2 kms. and bear left at the sign that says Bangkok 361. Continue about 11 kms. and bear left at the Chonburi 3 sign (Sukhumvit Rd.) The Chonburi 3 sign is just past a Shell station on the left. Continue about 2 kms. (1.2 kms. from a tall white office building on the right) to the Land Transport Office on the left. At the entrance, there is a pedestrian walkway over Sukhumvit from which a blue sign in Thai with a left arrow is hung. Drive into the entrance and ahead of you will be the “Drive Thru For Tax” lanes. When you reach the “Drive Thru” area make a left and then the License Building is immediately in front of you.

If you want to use the Motorway and know how to get to Bangkok 361, the trip will take quite a bit less time. For the return trip to Pattaya, exit left onto Sukhumvit and make an immediate u-turn. Then, in 1-2 kms., follow the sign for Bangkok 361 and then watch for signs to Pattaya/Rayong.

If you have a Garmin GPS, on the menu, go to “Community”, then Government Office and then spell “Chon Buri Land Transport”. On my Garmin model, I only found the Land Transport Office when the word Chonburi is spelled as 2 words---Chon Buri.