

Extension for Purpose of Business

For those that are employed by a business or start a business of their own, Thai Immigration will grant an extension of stay up to one year at a time. However, Immigration rules for an extended stay differ from the rules applied by Thai Embassies/Consulates in the granting of a Non-Immigrant "B" Visa. The documentation requirements can vary between the Thai Immigration offices, so one should check with the office where they plan to apply to determine exactly what business records will be necessary. In the case of being employed by a business in Thailand, they will usually assist with all the necessary documentation for the visa application as well as for the one-year extension. To work in Thailand, one must have a work permit issued by the Ministry of Labor (refer to our Living in Thailand page for more information about working in the Kingdom).



Requirements

According to Section 2.1 of **Police Order 777-2551**, the requirements are:

1. Hold a Non-Immigrant Visa
2. Foreigner must have an income consistent with that prescribed (see below)
3. Business must have a registered capital of at least 2 million Baht - fully paid up
4. The business concerned must have duly submitted its financial statement as at the end of the two fiscal years, certified by an auditor or tax auditor, showing a sound financial conditions and an on-going active business - see **Police Order 777-2551 attachment** for criteria for an on-going active business.
5. The business needs to employ the foreigner
6. The business must have a ratio of 1 foreign employee to 4 Thai permanent employees (Note: This is a requirement for getting an extension of stay; not for obtaining a work permit)

For an International Trade Business Representative Office or multinational company regional or branch Office, they are not required to meet Items 3, 4, & 5 above and for Item 6 they are required to have a 1 to 1 ratio.

Specified Salary for Item 2:

European countries (except Russia), Australia, Canada, Japan, United States 50,000 Baht; Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, 45,000 Baht; Asian (except Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan ,Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam) South America, Eastern Europe, Central America, Mexico, Turkey, Russian, and South Africa 35,000 Baht; Africa except South Africa, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam 25,000 Baht.

Documents Needed

The following documents are listed in as needed for the granting of a one year extension. Also see **Police Order 777-2551 attachment** for business extension, which contains guidelines for Immigration Officers to use in determining continuous and active business status.

1. **Basic documents** for application to extend stay in Thailand .
2. Valid Work Permit issued by the Ministry of Labor
3. Letter from employing company accepting the foreigner into their workplace
4. Financial statements certified by an auditor or tax auditor for past two years
5. Other documents that Immigration may require (obtain from the Immigration Office)

Note: The current Police Order does not specifically state that the applicant needs to possess a current valid work permit issued by the Ministry of Labor; however, it was previously required and you may be asked to provide it.