



## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE LAND TRANSPORT OFFICE

**[please note – we received a report in January 2018 that they are currently limiting the number of foreigners to 120 per day – the person reporting suggests you consider arriving by 7:30am during the busy season (Jan, Feb, Mar) to get in line for a queue number]**

Banglamung is a District in Chonburi Province. The following procedures are in place at the Banglamung Branch of the Land Transport Office (LTO), which serves the Pattaya and Sattahip areas. The following procedures will take about 3 to 4 hours if you do not do the written or driving tests (see note at end if you are accompanying a Thai citizen applying for their first license).

1. Go to the stairs on the right side of the main entrance. There is also a ticket dispenser next to the stairs that provides queue numbers – usually there is an LTO officer present to provide you with a queue number).
2. Take a seat and watch the electronic display on the wall next to the stairs which will display numbers “5##” or “1##”. When your number is shown, proceed up the stairs and present your application and documents at the desk at the top of the stairs. They will check that you have all the required paperwork, add a form and ask you to enter your name on the form and your telephone number before giving you a colored ticket with a number. They will retain all your documents including original passport. They will tell you to wait in the training room
3. Proceed to the training room which will be on your right just before the vision testing/reaction cubicle. They will call out several ticket color/numbers, collect your colored ticket, and direct you to the vision/reaction test area.
4. Tests you will take are your vision and reaction tests - you are given 3 chances for each test. If you do not pass the test, you may return the next day and try again – if you do not pass the color blindness test, there is no second chance and you will not get a driving license. Note: the LTO Officer may group foreigners together for these tests so they can explain to that group in English the tests to be taken.
  - a. Test for color blindness: there are three colors, green, yellow and red of various sizes of circles on the chart. The officer will point at one circle randomly and you must identify the color.
  - b. Test for reaction: Press down on the "driving pedal" and the green light will appear. When the red light appears, you must immediately press the brake pedal.
  - c. There are two other vision tests, but they are not consistently required. Our person that offers driving license assistance says that unless a “big boss” is present, if they are busy, they usually omit one or both the following tests:
    - i. Test of peripheral (side) vision: place your chin on the indent area at the center. The officer will move a colored object and you will tell the officer the color you see on the Left and the Right sides without turning your head.
    - ii. Test for depth perception: You will be seated about 3 meters (9 feet) away and will use a green button on a control box to move a red line appearing on the left. The object is to line the red line up with a white column on the right. The requirement is to line the two up within 1 inch of each other.

5. You will then be directed back to the training room. You will need to place your name in the ledger on the table at the front of the training room. You will be required to watch a video (has English subtitles) about “How to Drive in Thailand” - there is no test on this material. The video is about 35 minutes in length. [SEE NOTE ON LAST PAGE]
6. If you are not required to take a written or driving test, at the end of the video, the LTO Officer will sit at the front table and call out names. When your name is called, go to the table, sign your name where indicated by the LTO officer, collect your original passport, and paperwork. You will be directed to go to the Cashier to pay your fee(s) for the license(s).
  - a. You most likely will be required to take a written test if you do not have a valid International Driving Permit or a certification letter from your Embassy<sup>1</sup> as to the validity of your current home country/state driving license or it has been more than one year since your Thai license has expired. You will use a machine to record your answers. As of June 1, 2014, you will have 50 written questions and you must answer 45 correctly to pass. The written test is offered in three languages, Thai, English, and Chinese. There are separate tests; so if you are applying for both an automobile and a motorcycle license, you will take two written tests. The machine will note if you get a question wrong and display the correct answer to the question. If you do not pass, you will be given a slip of paper and told you can return later and retake the written test – usually after 3 days and before 3 months (if you return with the paper within the specified time period, you will not be required to re-take the vision/reaction tests).
  - b. If you do not have a valid foreign driving license or it has been more than three years since your Thai license expired, you will also be required to take a driving test. You will go outside and place your vehicle in line for the driving course as instructed and observed by an LTO Officer. If you do not pass, you will be given a slip of paper and told you can return later and retake the driving test – usually after 3 days and before 3 months (if you return with the paper within the specified time period, you will not be required to re-take any of the tests you have passed (vision/reaction tests or written tests)).
7. If you have passed all required tests, you will pay the fee to the cashier at desk #3 – it is well marked. Once you pay the fee, you will receive a blue ticket with a number on it. You then take a seat in the waiting area, which is in the center of the room. The fee(s) are:
  - a. Two year Motorcycle - 155 Baht
  - b. Two year Car - 205 Baht
  - c. Five year Motorcycle - 355 Baht
  - d. Five year Car - 605 Baht

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<sup>1</sup> It appears that this is required only by Banglamung LTO. For US citizens' information, the US Embassy will not notarize a document that contains a photocopy of your driving license. They are at present trying to develop a document that will meet the LTO's requirement.

8. You will then wait in the waiting room until your number is called for your digital photograph to be taken – the wait time will vary depending on how many applicants are being processed.
9. After your photo, you will wait until called again to collect your new driving license – usually less than 5 minutes but could be longer as noted in item 8.

**CAUTION:** *Ensure that all the information on the license is correct before leaving the Land Transport Office. On the front of the license there will be 2 sections – both will show your name in roman letters and your passport number if a foreigner or identity card number if a Thai. The first section will show your date of birth and expiration date in Thai. The second section will show this information in English. Your address will be in the reverse side in a small block and will be in Thai.*

#### **THAI CITIZEN APPLYING FOR THEIR FIRST LICENSE**

There is a 4 hour class that they will be required to take – they will need to take their documents to a window located across the driveway to the driving test area – it will be to the left of the main building. The class is limited to the first 80 applicants and is taken before they do any other processing – they usually break for lunch and then resume. So, they should arrive early to get in the first group of 80 or they will be told to return another day. They should be prepared to spend most of the day as they will be taking vision/reaction tests, written tests, and driving test after the class – note, the tests are not necessarily taken in that order.

There were some announcements in the press from the Land Transport Department indicate that the training class will be expanded to perhaps over 90 hours – this has been pending since June 1, 2014 as the Department is working on means to provide the training and as of December 2016, it does not yet appear to have been implemented.

**NOTE REGARDING VIDEO** – There are two different videos, one for first time applicants and another for renewal for 5-year license. The video was shown for first time applicants in the morning and for renewals from 10am to 11am and again from 1pm to 2pm. Consequently, if renewing your license, an early arrival will not shorten the stay as you must watch the video at the scheduled time and then go through the license issuance process. If you miss the 10am video, you will be required to attend the 2pm video before completing the process to get your license.

