



Global Immigration alert

July 2024

Thailand

New visa exemptions for nationals of over 90 jurisdictions and new digital nomad visa

Executive summary

Effective 15 July 2024, Thailand implemented amendments to its immigration policies, including new visa regulations impacting business visitors and the introduction of a new visa for remote workers.

Key developments

As previously [reported](#), the amendments include the following:

- ▶ Nationals of over 90 jurisdictions may now enter Thailand for “business engagements” using only their valid passport (i.e., without obtaining a visa prior to arrival) and remain for an initial period of 60 days per trip. These individuals may apply for a 30-day extension of their stay from within Thailand and must limit their time in the country to 90 days cumulatively per trip. Previously, these individuals were required to obtain a Non-Immigrant B Visa prior to entering Thailand for business purposes. The Thai government has not yet provided a definition of activities that fall within the scope of “business engagements.”
- ▶ Nationals of several jurisdictions with bilateral visa-exemption agreements with Thailand (e.g., Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, South Korea) may enter Thailand for business engagements using only their valid passport (without a visa) for up to 90 days (without the need for an extension), rather than 60 days. Nationals of Myanmar may enter Thailand for business engagements using only their valid passport (without a visa) for an initial period of 14 days and may be eligible to extend their stay from within Thailand by up to seven additional days (for a cumulative maximum period of stay not exceeding 21 days), provided they enter via an international airport.
- ▶ As previously, individuals who enter Thailand using only their valid passport (or a passport and Non-Immigrant B visa, depending on their nationality) and seek to conduct certain work activities (which the government has designated as “urgent” or “ad hoc” work activities) for up to 15 days may be eligible to apply for, and obtain, an Urgent Work Permit (UWP) after entering Thailand. When announcing the recent amendments, the Thai government listed over 15 activities that may be performed using a UWP. In certain cases, it may be possible to extend a UWP once for 15 days (for a cumulative maximum period of no more than 30 days).
- ▶ Thailand has created a new visa, called the “Destination Thailand Visa” (DTV), which is valid for up to five years and allows digital nomads, remote workers and other eligible foreign nationals to enter Thailand for up to 180 days per entry (with the possibility of extending their stay for an additional 180-day period). To qualify, applicants must prove that they have at least THB 500,000 (approx. USD 13,920) and enter Thailand for an authorized purpose (e.g., engaging in remote work, freelance work, business travel, trainings and seminars, receiving medical treatment, participating in sports competitions).
- ▶ The government announced updates regarding its policy on Visas on Arrival (VOA). VOAs are appropriate for tourists

and do not permit their holders to participate in business engagements or activities.

Impact on employers

Employers are expected to benefit from the new amendments, which will reduce the time and costs associated with sending their employees to Thailand for business purposes.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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