

Thailand

Business visitors: FAQs



If planning on traveling to Thailand for temporary business, it is important to remain compliant with the immigration laws of Thailand. The purpose of the visitor's intended travel, duration of stay and citizenship will determine if and what type of visa is required. The information in this document is intended to serve as an informational resource about business visitor requirements in Thailand.

Who needs a business visitor visa for Thailand?

A business visa is issued to individuals who wish to enter the Kingdom of Thailand to engage in business activities. The visa is administered by the Immigration Bureau and it serves only for the purposes of entry and exit to/from the country. All foreigners who wish to have the right to live and work in Thailand must apply for a work permit.

What activities are permitted as a business visitor?

Activities permitted typically include:

- Attending meetings or conferences
- Arranging deals, negotiating or signing trade agreements.
- Undertaking fact-finding or seek potential business development opportunities including learning about the Thai customers' market
- Conducting site visits and observe operations on site
- Speaking at a one-off conference
- Representing a foreign firm by coming to consult the locals for its products within their initial period of guarantee
- Representing a foreign firm by coming to set up machinery as part of the contract of purchase and supply

Activities not permitted typically include:

- Starting a business entity in Thailand
- Carrying out employment activities for any employer whether it is business entity or charity in Thailand
- Attending school or study
- Seeking permanent residence in Thailand

These lists are subject to change and are not all-inclusive.

How long can a traveler stay in Thailand as a business visitor?

Typically, business visas endorsed by a Thai Embassy or Thai Consulate abroad permit a duration of stay of 90 days. For frequent business travelers, it is possible to apply for a 1-year or 3-year multiple-entry business visa.

Is there a limit on the number of times a visitor may travel to Thailand as a business visitor in any given period?

There are no general guidelines or any limit upon how many visits a person may make to Thailand in any given period as a business visitor. However, frequent entries to the country may trigger questions by an Immigration Officer.

Can a visitor's spouse and children also come to Thailand?

A business visitor's spouse and children can come to Thailand. They will be required to apply for a dependent visa at the Thai Consular post in the applicant's country of origin. Or separately, they can apply for their tourist visas to the country.

Penalties related to non-compliance for the business visa category?

Under the Alien Occupation Act, foreigners working without a proper work permit is punishable with fines and jail time. It will also leave an adverse record for future visa application.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is provided for general information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. If you have any further enquiries regarding the applicability of this information, please contact Crown's Regional Immigration Manager, Asia.

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