



THAI IMMIGRATION NEWS

The information below is based on reports from Expats using the Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration Office (Jomtien Soi 5) unless otherwise noted.

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[LATEST INFORMATION ON 10 YEAR VISA FOR RETIREES \(as of 21 September 2017\)](#)

Requirements to obtain the Non-Immigrant “O-X” Visa is now available on several Thai Embassy websites. [Click here](#) for information shown by the Thai Embassy to the USA for the Non-O-X-Visa. They also show the Non-Immigrant “O-A” Visa (one year stay) is still available. The following has been extracted from this information for the O-X Visa that primarily differs from that for the O-A Visa:

4. A copy of bank statement (from Thailand financial institutes only) and a letter of guarantee from the bank with bank’s contact information showing a deposit of the amount equal to and not less than 3 Million Bahts, Please note that such minimum amount must be maintained at least 1 year after receiving the visa or A copy of bank statement (from financial institutes located in Thailand only) and a letter of guarantee from the bank with bank’s contact information showing a deposit of the amount equal to and not less than 1.8 Million Bahts and proof of annual incomes of not less than 1.2 Million Bahts (Once the applicants enter Thailand, they must have accumulated money deposited in Thai bank located in Thailand not less than 3 million Baht within 1 year.)

7. Health insurance plan as listed on website <http://longstay.tgia.org>. Coverage requirements for outpatient treatment of no less than 40,000 bahts and inpatient treatment of no less than 400,000 bahts.

8. Visa processing Fee of \$400USD

Extracted from information following list of documents (benefits that differ from O-A Visa):

1) Can work as a volunteer (in accordance with the list of volunteer work as stipulated by the Department of Employment).

Other information includes the following:

- Foreigners who enter Thailand with other type of Visa/Visa Exemption may contact the Immigration Bureau and apply for Non-O-X visa. (*)
- Foreigners must report, in person, to the immigration officer every 1 year for the examination of the qualifications and supporting documents.

(*) Although the information says it can be done at Thai Immigration in Thailand, we have not found any information on their website or, for that matter, on the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, that shows it is available or application requirements. **We will appreciate receiving any reports on what Thai Immigration will require (please note source and Immigration Office where obtained) – send the report to darrel-pcec@inbox.com or info@pcec.club.**

BANK LETTER SHOULD BE CURRENT

If you use funds on deposit in a Thai bank for all or part of your financial requirements, a recent reports in latter 2017 is that some Immigration Officers are not accepting the Bank Letter if it is not dated on the date of application (previous reports were that it could not be more than 3 days old) – We recommend it be obtained on the day of application or the preceding day if doing the renewal early in the morning – remember the ending balance shown in the passbook should be the same as shown in the bank letter..

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE 90 DAY ADDRESS REPORTING

One of our members who recently completed his 90-day reporting online has provided us with detailed instructions – [click here](#) to see the instructions. You may receive a warning that it is an unsecured site; thus, there could be some risk if you want to use online reporting.

CHONBURI (PATTAYA) IMMIGRATION NOW ENFORCING TM.30 CHANGE OF ADDRESS REPORTING WITHIN 24 HOURS (UPDATED 1/15/18)

Our most recent reports in January 2018 may be offering some hope that Immigration is starting to be consistent with their information and treatment of retirees. We have received 3 reports, all from retirees, that mention when they went to Immigration to file the TM.30 form after trips outside of Thailand, they were informed that if they were on retirement extensions of stay (sometimes referred to as having a retirement visa) AND were returning to the same address after having previously received a TM.30 (it is in their database), they do not need to report it again.

We will continue to monitor reports to see if this continues to be the case, that is no retiree returning to same address is told otherwise or later fined for not reporting. As to other situations, because of the mixed reports about the requirement to file the TM.30 Address Report within 24 hours of returning from travel outside Thailand we will continue to advise filing the report within 24 hours of return (or next business day) to avoid the risk of being fined.

From some of the reports received as of December 27, 2017:

I returned from Hong Kong after two weeks out of the Country. I got up early yesterday and made it out to Jomtien. There was an officer behind the front info desk along with the gal. I asked for a form to report my return after two weeks out of Thailand. He said "two weeks away, no problem, less than 60 days not necessary." I explained the general confusion over this issue. He reaffirmed his answer.

I was still reluctant. I turned left to the small office that took these reports. A young lady in uniform was behind the desk. She smiled and gave me the same answer as the officer out in front. "OK", I said. "Please write this in my Passport." She did so along with the date stamp.

A report from December 16, 2017:

Yesterday, because I'd taken a trip outside Thailand, I went to Immigration for the #@%&!? TM 30--two weeks late because I hadn't known anything about it when I went on my trip. My 90-day check-in was due about the same time so figured I'd do both, same day. Information lady said, "Yes, all farang have to check in with TM 30 desk, doesn't matter what kind of visa you have."

After an hour of cattle-like herding, sat down with the overworked TM 30 lady, amazingly nice in the midst of chaos. "Yes, all farang have to come here. But you explain you didn't know about the 24-hour rule so don't worry, this time you no pay, but next time you come here 24 hours or you must to pay."

Went over to the 90-day desk, all peaceful, ladies got me sorted in two minutes. Then I asked why, with a one-year retirement visa and my address on file with them, I had to check in with two Immigration offices, as it happens, on the same day with the same paperwork, when I'm already under obligation to notify you when I change my address. They said, "You have one-year visa, you don't have to check in with 24-hour office. We try to tell them many times they are wrong what they say but they don't listen."

A previous report on November 27, 2017 said when reporting they were requiring all of the paperwork and passport copies required as when you reported your return the first time. Information required was (please note, this individual had previously filed report, thus, in his case no lease/house book or other document showing residence was required as that information was already in their database):

Passport: Copy of the completed form 30 Photocopy of face page of passport
Photocopy of visa page Photocopy of departure card

A report was posted on Thaivisa on September 6 stating the person posting was fined 1,600 baht at Jomtien Immigration when he went to do his annual extension because his landlord had not filed a TM.30 form (report of alien living in property) – the following is an extract:

First immigration officer was very business-like but friendly. He informed me that my landlord had never reported my address, so I needed to complete an additional form (TM-30) and pay a fine before preceding. I was taken to another room and filled out the form. That officer then called my landlord and read her the riot act for not reporting me. I paid the 1600 baht fine (will be deducted from this months rent), and was given a part of the TM-30 to keep in my passport.

Pattaya radio Fabulous FM 103 has prepared a video and text based on information they received from Chonburi Immigration regarding the filing of Form 30 to report an alien (foreigner) residing in your residence and/or property. To view the text with link to the video, visit: <http://fabulous103.com/immigration-thailand-visitors-home/>. To view just the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tStMlfgVu8Y>. The information indicates that the report can be sent in by email, but doesn't mention whether the required documents (see below) need to also be scanned and emailed or whether Immigration will return the "receipt" showing next reporting date by email. If anyone uses this method, please let us know the results and what was required.

Also, please note the following reports of advice received, which continues to be inconsistent:

- **The information is silent regarding whether you must report your address if you are returning from a trip inside of Thailand.**
- **We also received a report in mid-April 2017 that a member went to Immigration to renew their retirement extension – all was fine, but later they received a call to return to Immigration and were informed that since they didn't report to Immigration within 24 hours of their previous return several weeks earlier, they received a hefty fine (they did not indicate how long they were out of Thailand).**
- **One of our members, returning to Thailand on Friday, April 21, went to Immigration to report their address on Monday, April 24. They report that the Immigration Officer confirmed that they were required to make the report within 24 hours. A portion of the TM.30 form was detached and placed in his passport as evidence of reporting. BUT, another who just returned to Thailand announced at the April 30 meeting that they were told it was unnecessary if they were out of Thailand less than 30 days.**
- **Recent reports, May 21, 2017 – from two persons: One was late, but fine was waived based their going in to report and advising Immigration Officer they had just learned of the requirement – they specifically asked the Officer about not being required to report if trip outside Thailand is less than 30 days; they were told no, they must report address within 24 hours. It continues to be an inconsistent policy and it all depends on the Immigration Officer on duty.**
- **A report, June 7, 2017 – A member returned on Friday, June 2, 2017, and was not aware of the requirement until the following week. They went to Immigration on June 7. They were told they were required to file the TM.30 as they were the condo owner, but they were not fined even though they were a few days late.**
- **A report, July 11, 2017 – A report that upon inquiry to the foreigner that assists at Immigration on Soi 5, Jomtien, they were told that reporting is required only if away from residence 14 days, whether traveling within or outside of Thailand. Again, a report that is inconsistent with other reports of what people are being told at Immigration. However, all of our other reports regarding travel within Thailand is that no reporting is necessary other than usual 90 day reporting.**

[Updated January 14, 2018] You can download the Form TM.30, complete the information, and email it to Immigration at immchonburi.report@gmail.com. Although not mentioned, hopefully Immigration will email back the receipt (We received a report at the January 14, 2018 meeting that someone did use this method and they received an acknowledgement – we are following up to find out the process they used including documents sent in). Not mentioned is whether you need to have supporting documents as required if you report in person (see below).

If you regularly rent out property that you own, you can go to Immigration to get signed up for using online reporting. To download a copy, visit: <http://www.pcecnews.com/permNL/tm30.pdf> (source Thai Immigration Website).

Sign at Immigration noting documents needed when filing the Change of Address Form (TM.30)



PLEASE NOTE: We received a recent that the Retirement Extension Renewal desk now shows this sign as documents needed for address.

The report received on June 7, 2017, the member said that although he had other ownership documents, the 24 hour reporting desk accepted a copy of his Thai Driving License which had his address on the reverse.

REQUIREMENTS AT PATTAYA IMMIGRATION FOR NON-IMMIGRANT “O” VISA APPLICATIONS FOR USE IN EXTENDING YOUR STAY BASED ON RETIREMENT [Please Note: the following does not apply to those doing their annual renewal of their permission to stay or for those applying for a one year extension if they entered Thailand using a Non-Immigrant “O” Visa]

Using an Income Letter from your Embassy to show monthly income

We have received reports (1/17) from Expats applying for a Non-Immigrant “O” Visa as part of the two step process to get a long stay retirement extension having arrived in Thailand on Visa Exempt or Tourist Visa status. If using an Embassy letter certifying income to meet the financial requirements, Immigration wants the Embassy Letter to have been verified by the Department of Consular Affairs (located in Bangkok in the Chaeng Wattana Government Complex – 3rd Floor). The Legalization section will place a stamp on the document, the cost is 400 baht (regular) or 800 baht (express – same day). NOTE: This stamp IS NOT being required as of August 2016 if using the income letter when renewing your annual extension OR when applying for first time and you entered Thailand with a Non-Immigrant Visa.

[Click here](#) for a map showing location of Department of Consular Affairs office in the Government complex at Chang Wattana. The legal Department is on the 3rd floor.

Hand drawn map now being required

The Immigration Officers at Desk 9 are requiring a hand drawn map from the Immigration Office to your residence – the latest report that this is required was received in January 2017.

Once the Visa is received, you can apply for the one year extension after 60 days

We received a report August 7, 2016 from an individual applying for the Non-Immigrant “O” Visa using 800,000+ baht in a Thai bank, that they are no longer doing both applications (for Visa and for Extension) at the same time. He was informed that when the Visa approval is received back from Bangkok, he will have a 90 day permission to stay from date of issue, and should return to apply for the one year extension 30 days before the permitted stay ends. At the time you have the visa and 90 day permission to stay stamped into your passport, if using an Embassy Income letter, to inquire whether you will need a new one when you apply for the one year extension.

IF YOU USE BAHT IN THAI BANK TO QUALIFY FOR RETIREMENT EXTENSION RENEWAL – READ THIS

We have received reports from members who keeps the 800,000 baht on deposit in a separate Thai bank account for the purpose of meeting Retirement extension requirements have been told by Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration that:

It must show some recent activity to be acceptable. If this applies to you, we suggest that before going for renewal you deposit some funds to the account and perhaps withdraw some – BUT be sure not to let the account balance drop below the 800,000.

The bank letter must not be more than 3 days old. A report on March 9, 2017 is that Immigration now requires the “bank letter” be no more than 3 days old. But note that there have been recent reports that the Immigration Officer insisted it be the same date as the application (see notice on page 2). We have always recommended that the bank letter be obtained the preceding business day before making the application.

Foreign currency account. A report on, April 23, 2017, is that a Foreign currency account at a Thai bank is acceptable so long as there are no restrictions on withdrawal of funds.

ALERT FOR EXPATS RENTING TO/FROM ANOTHER EXPAT -- It appears that Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration Office may not approve applications for retirement extensions if you are renting a property from another retired expat unless they have a Work Permit for leasing their property – this also seems to be sporadic (latest report was in February 2017). Another report is that there is no problem if the owning Expat uses a regular management agent to do the rental and rental documents to be used for the extension come from the management agent.

PROOF OF RESIDENCE

Documentation required can vary depending on the Immigration Officer processing the paperwork, these are the latest reports – **KEEP US INFORMED** -- If you experience something different or wish to confirm your experience, please let us know at: Darrel-pcec@inbox.com or info@pcecclub.org.

For the past several months, Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration has implemented additional requirements for documenting proof of residence. However, their requirements have not been consistent, so it has not been possible for us to provide definitive requirements. We are providing the following from reports received so that you may be aware of what could be asked for when you apply for or to renew your extension of stay. If you do not have some of the documents mentioned below for your circumstances, we suggest you apply as early as you can for your extension (Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration will process renewal applications up to 30 days before your permission to stay date) so you will have time to obtain any additional documentation if they require it.

Proof of residence when renewing or getting a Retirement Extension of Stay if renting from a Thai landlord

If you rent, Pattaya Immigration not too long ago added a requirement for providing a copy of your Thai landlord's ID card and house book (1/16). However, we have had reports since then that indicate that this added requirement is not consistently required or it is no longer being asked for (4/16). **UPDATE:** Your writer did annual renewal of extension on 6/28/16 using copy of lease, Thai landlord's ID card (which was part of lease document) and Landlord's House Book (had been previously obtained when first renting the house 2 ½ years ago as it was required by Truevision to move his satellite antenna to the new location) – the Immigration Officer did highlight information on the house book as part their review of documents for the extension

Proof of residence when renewing or getting a retirement extension of stay if you have a property (house or condo) owned by your Thai Company, Ltd.

In March 2016 we received a report that if you have a property owned by your Company, Ltd., the Immigration Officer refused to accept a copy of a utility bill as it was in the Company name, but they did accept the Expat's Thai driving license which had his address on the reverse side. Other reports have been that you need the Chanote (land document showing company as owner) and Company documents showing that the Expat applicant in the Managing Director. **UPDATE:** Several recent reports with the latest on November 23, 2016 are that Immigration will accept a copy of your Thai Driving License (front & back – the back has address) and a recent bill (telephone, etc.) showing the same address as on the Driving License (6/16).