



UPDATE REGARDING CHANGES IN THAI IMMIGRATION RULES

New Immigration rules for extensions of stay based on retirement or having a Thai wife or family member of stay were effective January 1, 2019 for those using the income method regarding documentation required if your Embassy no longer provides a certification of income letter (UK, USA, Australia, and Denmark) and March 1 for those using the 800,000 baht in a Thai bank.

However, these rules are open to interpretation by local Immigration Officials. We have now received several reports regarding Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration Office, but will appreciate hearing reports of personal experience there in applying for first or renewal of extension. Please send your report to Darrel-pcec@inbox.com with cc to info@pcec.club.

Below is information on the new rules as issued in an amendment to Immigration Police Order 138-2557 relating to documents needed to support monthly income (retirement or related to Thai) and supplemental Immigration Police Order 35/2561 relating to requirements for an extension of stay based on retirement. Because these are new requirements, it appears interpretations differ among Immigration Offices and/or Immigration Officers in the same Office.

The following applies to Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration located on Jomtien Soi 5.

Qualifying for extension based on 800,000 in Thai bank: [Click here](#) for checklist.

Effective with initial application and renewals on or after March 1, 2019.

The 800,000 must be on deposit for 2 months for retirement extension. The 800,000 must also be kept on deposit for an additional 3 months after the extension of stay is granted. After that, a minimum of 400,000 baht must remain on deposit in the account, thus if using this method, you should never let your account fall below 400,000. PLEASE NOTE: If at any time the amount goes below the required amounts, even if only 1 baht, your application for extension will in all probability be denied.

Several members who renewed their retirement extension from March through July 2019 at Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration report that they were required to sign a document which included a copy of the Police Order 35/2562 followed by an acknowledgement that they must return on a date 90 days from date of application to show their bank passbook to Immigration. Observed on June 19, 2019, a sign at Desk 8 (retirement) regarding what is required when returning:

- Copy of passport ID page & stamp showing last extension of stay
- Copy of Bank passbook ID page & last page of Passbook
- Original Appointment slip – rec'd at time of Extension of Stay obtained

Qualifying for extension based on Monthly Income of 65,000 baht: [Click here](#) for checklist.

1. Embassy Certification of Monthly Income – if your Embassy/Consulate still issue a certification of monthly income equivalent to at least 65,000 baht per month, then as in the past, you must provide the Embassy Certification with your application for extension – please note, that in such cases, you must have the Embassy Certification to include with your application. The documents required as noted in item 2, are not required and will not be accepted in lieu of an Embassy letter.
2. Embassy Does Not Prove a Certification of Monthly Income – The following rules apply regarding evidence of having at least 65,000 baht monthly income:

- a. Initial Application (first), evidence of deposit of at least 65,000 baht from a source outside of Thailand - you will need to show evidence of at least two or more monthly transfers from outside of Thailand.

Suggestion: If you arrived in Thailand using a Non-Immigrant Visa, 90 day permitted stay you should open a Thai bank account or have one already and begin making monthly transfers as soon as possible to show at time of application for retirement extension (application can be done after 60 of your 90 day permitted stay). If you apply for the Non-Immigrant Visa at Pattaya Immigration, you will first receive a 90 day permitted stay from date Visa is issued and should be making monthly deposits for the two months before you apply for a one year extension.

- b. Renewal Application, evidence of deposit of at least 65,000 baht into your Thai bank account each month from a source outside of Thailand – if applying after January 1, 2020, it must be for the preceding 12 months and for each month. If applying before, January 1, 2020, Immigration Offices have been told to show leniency since the rule which was not effective until January 1, 2019. We do not have any reports for those with less than 12 months, e.g., rules became effective January 1, 2019 and no or few monthly deposits were made prior to that date.

3. Evidence for support of 65,000 baht being deposited monthly in your Thai bank account from outside Thailand – You will need to have photocopies of your bank book showing the deposits are being made to your account. In addition, Immigration will require two letters from your bank. One is the standard letter in use for several years confirming the account and current balance. The other to show the date and amount of international transfers made to the account for the past 12 months. Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration provided an example of the letter they require – [Click here for a pdf file](#) (example is from Bangkok Bank) – you can print it out as an example to show your bank when asking for the letter. Please Note: The Immigration Officer providing an example, said for Bangkok Bank, it should be obtained from the Branch where you opened your account (a first hand report from someone obtaining the letter on June 19, 2019, from the Pratamnak Branch of Bangkok Bank notes that the Bank first had to print out “Credit Advices” for each foreign deposit during the preceding 12 month period (fee 500 baht) which they then used to prepare the letter for Immigration (fee 100 baht). Further that Immigration will only want the letter, not the “Credit Advices”.

4. Qualifying for extension based on Combination method (money in bank and monthly income to total 800,000).

The new rules going into effect March 1, 2019 permit the combination method. However, Immigration Officers, from reports we have seen on Thaivisa.com are confused and do not have any guidance on how to do the calculations.

We have seen mixed reports on Thaivisa.com regarding allowance of the combination method. Although we have seen third hand reports that Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration Office is one of the Offices refusing to allow this method, we have not received any first hand report of someone making an application for extension at Pattaya Immigration.

The new rules appear to require a minimum of 400,000 baht on deposit plus monthly transfer in baht of enough so that the amount on deposit plus monthly transfer multiplied by 12 will equal 800,000 baht. Note: This appears to mean that the calculation must be made for each month.