

Expiring Passports: Changes to Thai Immigration Regulations

The Thai Immigration Bureau has issued new regulations **with immediate effect** concerning the duration period of a visa in the case that a passport is expiring. The rule also covers the transfer of visas from old passports to new passports.

The new regulations are as follows:

1. **Long term employment visas** will only be issued/extended to the date that the work permit holder's passport expires.
2. **Dependent visas for family members** of the work permit holder will only be issued/extended to match the date of the work permit holder's visa. The dependents' visas will expire on the same date that the work permit holder's passport/visa expires, even if the dependents' passports will still be valid.
3. The **long-term employment visa** will no longer be automatically transferred from the old passport to the new passport. Instead, when the long term employment visa holder has obtained a new passport, the visa holder and family members will need to re-apply for a new visa application by submitting all the required documents for long-term visa extension and pay a fee of THB 1,900 per person.
4. At the same time that the **work permit holder transfers the visa** to the new passport, the dependents can also extend their dependent visas to match the permitted period of the work permit holder's visa.

Non-BOI company employees: the old visa will be transferred into the new passport based on the expiry date of the old visa (which is the date the old passport expired). The passport holder will then be given a new one-year period from the date the old visa expired.

BOI-promoted company employees: the validity period of the new visa after being transferred into the new passport will be the same as the permitted period specified in the BOI approval letter originally granted to the work permit holder.

Any **BOI visa application filed before August 26, 2013** will be processed as per the previous regulation. In such cases, no new visa application is required.

For further information please call MBMG Corporate Solutions on +66 2665 2536, or email us at info@mbmg-international.com

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