

Siam Legal International Issues Advisory as Thailand Moves to Reduce Visa-Free Stay Periods

May 29, 2026

Bangkok, Thailand - May 29, 2026 -
Siam Legal International, a Thailand-based full-service law firm with more than 20 years of operation, is issuing an advisory following Thailand?s Cabinet approval of revisions to the country?s visa-free entry framework. The planned changes include the cancellation of the 60-day visa exemption scheme introduced in 2024 and a return to shorter, country-specific visa-free stay periods.

According to the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the revised entry conditions will take effect 15 days after publication in the Royal Gazette. Until the revised measures formally take effect, current entry conditions remain in place. The official update advises foreign visitors from the 93 countries and territories previously covered by the 60-day scheme to monitor announcements before making travel plans.

Under the revised framework, Thailand is expected to return to a country-specific system. Nationals of 54 countries and territories are expected to be eligible for a 30-day visa exemption, while nationals of 3 countries and territories are expected to be eligible for a 15-day visa exemption. Visa on Arrival eligibility is also

expected to be reduced to 4 countries and territories, while separate bilateral visa exemption agreements will continue to apply for certain countries.

Siam Legal notes that the policy shift reflects a clearer distinction between short-term tourism and longer-term stays in Thailand. Visa-free entry is intended for tourism and short visits. Foreign nationals using repeated visa-free entries for remote work, extended residence, unregistered business activity, or other non-tourism purposes may face closer scrutiny under the revised framework.

?The key point for foreign visitors is that visa-free entry should not be treated as a long-term stay solution,? said Rex Baay, Senior Immigration Consultant and Operations Manager at Siam Legal International. ?Travelers who plan to stay beyond the permitted visa-free period, enter Thailand frequently, work remotely, retire, or relocate with family should review the proper visa pathway before arrival.?

For short-term tourists, the practical impact may be limited if their trips already fall within the revised permitted stay period. However, the end of Thailand?s 60-day visa-free stay is more significant for slow travelers, remote workers, digital nomads, retirees, frequent visitors, and foreign nationals who have relied on visa-free entry as a flexible way to spend extended time in Thailand.

Siam Legal is seeing more long-term visitors reassess their Thailand stay options as the government moves toward tighter screening and shorter exemption periods. Many of these inquiries are coming from people whose actual purpose in Thailand is closer to remote work, retirement, business planning, family stay, or long-term residence than short-term tourism.

Structured visa options remain available for foreign nationals who require longer stays in Thailand. The Destination Thailand Visa may be suitable for eligible remote workers, freelancers, and participants in approved soft-power activities. Tourist visas issued through Thai Embassies and Consulates remain an option for visitors who need a defined stay period before arrival. Long-term visitors may also consider options such as the Thailand Privilege Visa, retirement visas, marriage visas, or other long-term categories depending on their age, financial position, purpose of stay, and eligibility.

Foreign visitors should also review their travel history before entering Thailand. Repeated visa-free entries may draw closer scrutiny if the pattern suggests that the traveler is using tourist entries for long-term residence or non-tourism purposes. Travelers should be prepared to show a valid passport, onward or return travel details, accommodation information, proof of sufficient funds, and a clear travel purpose when entering Thailand.

Travelers who may be affected by the revised visa-free entry rules should review their options early, especially if they plan to stay in Thailand long term, visit frequently, work remotely, conduct business, or

relocate with family.

Siam Legal International is a Thailand-based full-service law firm with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya. The firm assists foreign nationals, Thai citizens, and businesses with legal and immigration matters, including company registration, property law, family law, litigation, and long-term stay options.

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