

**Guidelines for Granting Permanent  
Residence in the Kingdom of Thailand**

Over the years, many foreign investors and businessmen have sought permanent residence in the Kingdom of Thailand. To accommodate these requests, the Board of Investment (BOI) established criteria for granting permanent residence in 1989, and amended the guidelines in 1997.

Applicants must submit all necessary documents to Investment Services Center of the BOI, no later than May 12, 2000.

There are four categories under which foreigners or expatriated Thai nationals can apply for permanent residence in Thailand. In each case, the applicant and family members must not possess traits that, under Thai immigration law, would disqualify them from permanent residency. The four categories are as follows:

**1. Direct Investment**

Applicants must invest a minimum of 10 million baht in a new project that either is eligible for investment promotion under the Investment Promotion Act or which meets the criteria set forth by the Committee for Granting Permanent Residence.

If the project is not eligible for investment promotion by the BOI, the project must benefit the country in the following ways:

- Produce for export
- Increase employment
- Utilize indigenous raw materials
- Locate in provincial areas
- Encourage technology transfer to Thai nationals
- Projects in the following categories will not be taken into consideration:
  - Those which are restricted under Proclamation No. 281 of the Revolutionary Council
  - Those which compete in such a way as to destroy existing domestic businesses
  - Those which hinder the growth of existing domestic businesses or domestic businesses which have not yet been developed

For projects eligible for investment promotion, which have already submitted an application for promotional status or have already been granted promotion status, the applicant must bring in funds to invest in a new project that has not started operations.

Such investment must be in the form of a joint-venture in a newly or already established company. This joint-venture must economically benefit the project (for example, by assisting in export marketing or by bringing in appropriate technology).

Remitted funds must be invested in ordinary shares of the limited company that is set up to implement the approved project. The applicant must hold more than 25 percent of the registered capital unless the size of the project exceeds 100 million baht, excluding the cost of land and working capital, in which case case, the shareholding criteria may be relaxed.

Both of these conditions will apply for a minimum of three years from the date permanent residence is granted.

Applicants may apply for permanent residence for himself and the following family members:

- Spouse
- Parents
- Not more than three children who are unmarried and under 20 years old.

## **2. Indirect Investment in Securities**

Foreign investors must invest in either special government bonds designated by the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Thailand, State Enterprise bonds, or condominiums. The amount of the required investment is:

- 8 million baht for the investor
- 6 million baht for a spouse
- 2 million baht per unmarried child under the age of 20.

For purchases of either government or state enterprise bonds, the bonds may not be transferred or redeemed for a period of 5 years. In the case of purchase of a condominium whose project has been registered with the BOI, the condominium must not be sold for a minimum of 5 years, and may not be used as collateral for a loan.

For approval, the Committee will take into consideration the documentation on the purchase of the bonds or condominiums and the qualifications of the investor.

## **3. Experts**

Applicants must possess technical know-how or expertise that is in demand and will benefit the country. Educational or employment references, certified by the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate, must be submitted.

- Applicants must submit documentation indicating that he/she has an annual income of not less than US\$10,000.
- The applicant must not be less than 25 years of age. Family members who may also be granted permanent residence in the Kingdom include spouse, parents, and not more than three unmarried children under 20 years of age.

## **4. Thai Nationals Who Have Changed Their Citizenship**

- Applicants must possess technical know-how or expertise that is in demand and will benefit the country, and documentation of the applicant's educational or employment background must be submitted.
- Applicants must not be less than 20 years of age. In addition, permanent residence in the Kingdom may be granted for the applicant's family members, including spouse, parents, and not more than three unmarried children under 20 years of age.