



IOM International Organization for Migration

MIGRANT INFORMATION NOTE

Issue # 8 – November 2010

Between January and February 2010, 932,255 migrants from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar/Burma renewed their work permits with the Ministry of Labour's Employment Department (DOE). They were allowed to stay and work in Thailand for an additional year while undergoing the Nationality Verification (NV) process. Entry into the NV process was a condition of renewal of work permits in 2010. Of the 932,255 migrants, 26 per cent (245,121) have completed the NV process and obtained a Temporary Passport or Certificate of Identity, and they are allowed to work legally in Thailand for up to 4 years. However 74 per cent (687,134) are still in the process of getting their NV completed, and they need to renew their work permits before the end of February 2011 if they want to work in Thailand while their NV applications are processed by the relevant authorities. The Ministry of Labour has earlier indicated that that all NV processes should be completed by 28 February 2012.

This IOM Migrant Information Note provides the latest migration regulations and detailed information regarding the procedures and timelines for renewal of work permits in 2011.

Renewal of Work Permits 2011

Cambodian, Laotian and Myanmar/Burmese migrant workers whose work permits will expire on 20 January or 28 February 2011 but have not yet completed the NV processes will be required to renew their work permits according to the following procedures, timelines and fees:

Procedures	Application period for migrants whose work permits expire on 20 January 2011	Application period for migrants whose work permits expire on 28 February 2011
1. Undergo health check-up and apply for health insurance at health facilities specified by the Ministry of Public Health.	▪ From 1 December 2010 to 20 January 2011.	▪ From 1 January to 28 February 2011.
2. Renew work permit at Provincial Employment Offices or Bangkok Employment Offices Zone 1-10.	▪ By 20 January 2011.	▪ By 28 February 2011.

WHAT DOCUMENTS AND FEES ARE NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE PROCEDURES FOR THE WORK PERMIT RENEWAL?

1. To undergo health check-up and apply for the health insurance

Documents:

- Valid work permit

Fees:

- THB 600 for health check-up
- THB 1,300 for health insurance (valid until 28 February 2012)

2. **To renew work permit (the worker should present him/herself at the employment office with the employer or a representative with a letter of power of attorney)**

Documents:

- Valid work permit
- Medical certificate obtained in procedure 1 mentioned above
- Foreign workers employment permit (quota)
- Copy of the employer's ID card or copy of company registration document
- Power of attorney with THB 10 duty stamp (if the worker is accompanied by a representative of the employer)

Fees:

- THB 100 for application fee
- The cost of work permit renewal depends on the sector and province of employment. Domestic workers and labourers have to pay between THB 900 to THB 1,800 a year for their work permit depending on the province. Migrants employed in fisheries, fishery processing, agriculture and livestock pay THB 900 per year for their work permit in all provinces.

For more information about work permit renewal, please contact Provincial Employment Offices or Bangkok Employment Offices Zone 1-10 or the Office of Foreign Workers Administration (Tel: 02-3541767, 02-3541769).

Myanmar/Burma Temporary Passport Issuance Office in Ranong open until December 2010

The Myanmar/Burma Temporary Passport Issuance Office that was opened last July 2010 in Ranong, Thailand, has extended its operations and will remain open until December 2010. The Office was opened to allow Myanmar/Burmese migrant workers to collect their Temporary Passport in Thailand instead of in Kawthong, Myanmar/Burma during the monsoon season (July- September). To reach Kawthong from Ranong, migrants had to cross the Andaman sea which becomes particularly dangerous during the monsoon season.

Migrants can also collect their passports at the Temporary Passport Issuance Office in Tachilek whilst the Temporary Passport Issuance Office in Myawaddy remains closed due to the closure of the border at Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge in Maesot/Myawaddy since July 2010.

The Alien Repatriation Fund¹ Regulation provides details regarding fees and payment modalities

In accordance with the *Working of Aliens Act 2008*, a regulation regarding the Alien Repatriation Fund was endorsed by the government on 28 September 2010. Its provisions will become effective on 27 December 2010. The regulation specifies the fee structures for Cambodians, Laotian and Myanmar/Burmese workers to contribute to the Fund via their employers, along with the modalities of payment and receipt.

- **WHO MAKES THE PAYMENT AND HOW?** Cambodian, Laotian and Myanmar/Burmese migrant workers (who are granted temporary work permits, who have passed NV and obtained 2-year work permits, or who are recruited to work in Thailand under the MOU) have to contribute to the Alien Repatriation Fund. The employer is required to deduct the specified amount from the migrant worker's wage and pay the first installment to the fund by 17 January 2011. Payments should be made at the Office of the Foreign Workers Administration in Bangkok or at Provincial Employment Offices. Alternatively, payments can be arranged through commercial banks, post offices and other places as authorized by the Department of Employment.²

¹ The Alien Repatriation Fund is a fund to be used to repatriate migrant workers to their countries of origin after the expiry of their work permits.

² As per the MOL circular letter to the governors of all provinces of Thailand (no. Ror Ngor 0307/Wor 20412 dated 3 November 2010).

- **WILL A MIGRANT RECEIVE A PROOF OF THEIR PAYMENT TO THE FUND?** The employer will be given a receipt for each payment made. The receipt must be handed to the relevant employee.
- **HOW MUCH SHOULD MIGRANT WORKERS PAY TO THE REPATRIATION FUND?** The total contribution differs according to the nationality of the worker. Laotian and Myanmar/Burmese migrants have to pay a total of THB 2,400/person while Cambodians have to pay THB 2,100/person. The payments must be in six monthly installments to be paid by the 15th day of each month. This means that Laotian and Myanmar/Burmese workers will pay THB 400, and Cambodians will pay THB 350 in each instalment for a period of six months.
- **WILL THE MIGRANT RECEIVE THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAID TO THE REPATRIATION FUND BACK IF HE/SHE LEGALLY LEAVES THAILAND AFTER THE PERIOD OF LEGAL EMPLOYMENT IN THAILAND?** Yes. However, the regulation does not lay down modalities and is limited to saying that these will be provided in a later regulation.

Nationality Verification for Laotian migrants extended³

The processing of the current Laotian NV has been extended from 30 September 2010 to 30 December 2010. The office is located at the Home In Town Building, 5/24 Phaholyothin Road 73, Sikan, Don Muang, Bangkok. For more information, please contact 02-5323303-5, 02-5323288 (Bangkok) or the Provincial Employment Offices.

STATISTICS*

- **Total number of migrants who have been recruited through MOU from 2005 - 2010**

Nationality	Number of workers requested by employers	Number of migrants allowed to enter Thailand for work and already received work permit
Cambodia	94,744	30,248
Lao PDR	88,771	17,578
Myanmar/Burma	75,480	583
Total	258,995	48,409

*Source: Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand.
* Figures updated as of 25 October 2010*

- **NV processing status in 2010**

Nationality	Number of migrants eligible for NV as of February 2010	Number of migrants who have completed NV as of 30 September 2010	Number of migrants who haven't yet completed NV
Cambodian	56,479	31,428	25,051
Laotian	62,792	25,370	37,422
Myanmar/Burmese	812,984	188,323	624,661
Total	932,255	245,121	687,134

*Source: Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand.
* Figures updated as of 30 September 2010.*

The Migrant Information Note is produced by the Labour Migration Programme, IOM Thailand Office. For further information, please contact us by tel.: 02-3439300, fax: 02-3439399, or e-mail: migrantnews@iom.int