



Migrant Information Note

Issue #16 – August 2012

This issue of the IOM Migrant Information Note (MIN) details the latest developments in migration issues and regulations in Thailand, including news on work permit renewals, health exams and insurance, workers' compensation and efforts to deal with human trafficking in the fisheries sector.

Work permit renewal

- The Ministry of Labour issued an announcement dated 15th June 2012 allowing migrant workers to renew their work permits during the period of **13th June to 10th October 2012**, and to complete the Nationality Verification (NV) process by 14th December 2012.

Health exam and insurance

- The Ministry of Public Health issued a letter dated 14th June 2012 addressed to all Provincial Public Health Offices allowing migrants to undertake health exams and purchase health insurance **between 13th June to 10th September 2012**.
- The migrant workers required to have health exams are those whose health exam certificate expires within four months from the moment the announcement was made. Therefore,
 - o Migrants who first registered in 2011 and completed a health exam in 2011 are required to do a new health exam.
 - o Migrants who recently renewed work permits and underwent health exams in early 2012 are not required to re-do health exams. Instead, they need to submit a copy of their medical certificate to Bangkok or Provincial Employment Offices for work permit application.
- All migrant workers awaiting NV will have to buy health insurance. Health exams cost THB 600 per person, and health insurance (lasting 6 months) is THB 640 per person covering the period of 15th June to 14th December 2012.

Workers' Compensation Fund

- The Social Security Office (SSO) issued a letter dated 31st May 2012 to the Governors of Thailand. The letter states that, in line with the Cabinet Resolution regarding social

security benefits for migrant workers who have passed NV, the operational guidelines for protecting migrant workers who have suffered work-related accidents/illnesses are as follows:

1. The SSO's operational guidelines on providing protection for migrant workers who incurred work-related accidents/ailments dated 25th October 2001 are to be discarded.
 2. Migrant workers who work in Thailand are entitled to protection under the Workers Compensation Act (1994).
- Migrant workers eligible for the benefits of the Workers Compensation Act (1994) are required to possess the following documents:
 1. Registration and work permit documentation issued by Thai authorities.
 2. Legal stay permit or passport (i.e. for those who have completed NV)
 - For migrant workers who suffer work-related accidents/illnesses, but do not have the aforementioned documentation, employers will be held responsible for paying compensation in accordance with the Workers Compensation Act (1994).

Establishment of coordination centers for laborers in fisheries sector

- On 16th July, 2012, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security announced that the Committee on the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Pol.Capt. Chalerm Yoo-bamrung, discussed the problems of human trafficking of fishery labourers. To address the problem of human trafficking in the fisheries sector the committee agreed to open coordinating centers for labourers working in this sector. It is expected that seven such centers would be piloted in Samut Sakorn, Rayong, Trad, Chumporn, Songkhla, Ranong and Satun to regularize irregular migrants who would be given temporary permit to stay in Thailand and work on fishing boats only while waiting for the NV. The committee will present its decision to the Cabinet for their acknowledgement.

http://www.mcot.net/cfcustom/cache_page/389255.html

Statistics

Table 1.1 – Total stock of migrants recruited through MOU working in Thailand as of June 2012

Nationality	No. of migrants working with active work permits and valid passports
Cambodia	65,991
Lao PDR	17,859
Myanmar/Burma	33,697
Total	117,547

Source: Website of Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Ministry of Labour, Thailand
<http://wp.doe.go.th/monthly-statistics>

Table 1.2 – Total stock of migrants who completed nationality verification (NV) as of June 2012

Nationality	No. of migrants working with active work permits and completed NV
Cambodia	71,624
Lao PDR	44,780
Myanmar/Burma	567,161
Total	683,565

Source: Website of Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Ministry of Labour, Thailand.
<http://wp.doe.go.th/monthly-statistics>

NOTE!

The total number of migrant workers with temporary work permits (Table 1.2) is not finalized by the Ministry of Labour as many migrants are still renewing their work permits and there are hence not captured in the above figures. It is expected that figures should be available in November 2012.

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