



Migrant Information Note

Issue #20 – June 2013

This issue of the IOM Migrant Information Note (MIN) provides an overview of the latest regulations affecting migrant workers in Thailand, including the exemption from work permit fees for victims of human trafficking; the ministerial regulation on contributions to the Migrant Repatriation Fund; details on undergoing health exams and acquiring health insurance for migrant workers, as well as updates on the new locations of the Immigration Bureau's migrant service centers and the migrant regularization process. Statistics of migrants in Thailand are also presented.

Draft Ministerial Regulation on the Exemption of Work Permit Fee for Migrant Workers who are Victims of Human Trafficking

Following approval of the Thai Cabinet resolution on 3 May 2011 allowing victims of human trafficking to work in Thailand, on 14 May 2013 the Thai Cabinet passed a resolution approving an exemption from the work permit fee for this group of migrants. The ministerial regulation was proposed by the Ministry of Labour and it is currently being revised by the Council of State. Moreover, the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board will submit its recommendations on the regulation to the Ministry of Labour for its consideration.

Migrant workers who are victims of human trafficking are permitted to stay and work in Thailand for a period of six months for the purposes of legal proceedings, medical treatment, physical and psychological rehabilitation and claiming entitlements. They have to meet two conditions in order to work in Thailand:

- 1) They must receive authorization to work from the Department of Social Development and Welfare of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security;
- 2) They must have an employer.

The Department of Social Development and Welfare will be responsible for any costs incurred if they are sick.

New Migrant Service Centers in Bangkok

The Migrant Service Center for migrant workers from Myanmar/Burma, Lao PDR and Cambodia at the Immigration Bureau in Soi Suan Plu, Bangkok, closed on 30 April 2013. Two new centers have been opened in:

1. Major Hollywood Suksawad (Operational from 1 May 2013)

Tel: 02-4632020, 02-4632044-6

2. Imperial World Department Store, Ladprao (Operational from 20 May 2013)

Tel: 02-5304535-6, 02-5304660-1

Office Hours (for both centers): 10:30-12:30, 13:30-18:30, Monday-Friday (except for official holidays)

The services provided by the centers include: granting extension of stay in Thailand, receiving notification of residence every 90 days, and receiving applications for and issuing visas and re-entry permits.

Deployment of More Lao Officials to Process Migrant Regularization

During the 2nd Thai-Lao Cabinet meeting in Chiang Mai Province of Thailand last June, the Thai Minister of Labour called for an increase in the number of Lao officials deployed to the One Stop Service Centers in Thailand to process the regularization requests of Lao nationals. There are currently only 7 Lao officials processing Lao nationals' applications in Thailand. Of the approximately 66,000 Lao migrant workers who have applied for the regularization process, only 2,300 have thus far received documents (temporary passports).
<http://www.mcot.net/site/content?id=5199d06a150ba00d7b0000c3#.UZwfGRX-K1s>

Health Examination and Health Insurance

According to the cabinet resolution passed on 15 January 2013, the Ministry of Public Health is the main body to provide health services and information for all migrants from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Burma/Myanmar engaged in the informal economy and thus who are not entitled to access the social security scheme (SSS), and for those employed in the formal sector and who are waiting for the social security benefits to become effective¹. The Minister of Public Health issued a ministerial notification dated 22 March 2013 on the health exams and insurance for migrant workers from three neighbouring countries, which includes an annex specifying measures and guidelines for undergoing health exams and obtaining insurance. Relevant information from the ministerial notification and its annex is summarized below:

Eligible groups and fees

- 1) Migrant workers who are eligible for and awaiting entry into the social security scheme (THB 1,047)
 - Health exam THB 600 per person
 - Health insurance THB 447 per person
(three-month insurance coverage from the date on which health insurance is purchased)
- 2) Migrant workers who are not eligible for the social security scheme and their dependents (THB 1,900)
 - Health exam THB 600 per person
 - Health insurance THB 1,300 per person
(one-year insurance coverage from the date on which health insurance is purchased)

¹ The SSS benefits become effective after the three-month contribution to the Social Security Fund.

3) Children of migrant workers under 15 years of age (THB 365)

- Health insurance THB 365 per person
(one-year insurance coverage from the date on which health insurance is purchased)

Documents required for health exam

- Passport/temporary passport or 13-digit document issued by the relevant Thai government agencies. In case of having no document to prove nationality, personal data including fingerprint and photo will be collected.

Where to undergo a health exam and obtain health insurance

- Public health facilities as specified by Provincial Public Health Offices or the Department of Medical Services of the Ministry of Public Health.
- Private health facilities which have participated in the health insurance scheme of the National Health Security Office.

Addendum: both the health exam and insurance must be done at the same health facility in the province in which migrant workers are permitted to work. Exemptions apply for migrant workers who work in the fisheries and construction sectors. Migrant workers in the fisheries sector are allowed to undergo health exams and obtain insurance in 22 coastal provinces. Migrant workers in the construction sector can undergo health exams and obtain insurance at health facilities in the province specified by the Department of Employment or Provincial Employment Offices.

Benefits

Migrants, except for children, will have to pay THB 30 each time they receive medical treatment. THB 30 will not be collected from migrants in cases of receiving health promotion or disease prevention/control/surveillance services. A health insurance package includes the following benefits:

Medical examination/treatment and general rehabilitation services

- Examination, diagnosis, and treatment pertaining to birth delivery, together with taking care of neonate (newborn baby) from birth to 28 days of age, medical rehabilitation throughout the treatment, and alternative medicine approved by the relevant commission;
- Tooth extraction (including surgical removal or extraction of wisdom/impacted tooth), tooth filling, tooth scaling;
- Food services and general patient room;
- Medicine and medical supplies according to the national list of essential medicines;
- Patient transfer between health facilities;
- Basic vaccines (for children between 0-15 years old);

Health Promotion and disease prevention and control services

- Provision of personal health care book for tracking individual health records continuously along with child health card;

- Health exam and provision of care for pregnant woman along with after-birth delivery service;
- Health exam for high-risk groups;
- Provision of HIV medicine in case of possible transmission from mother to child;
- Family planning;
- Home visits and home health care;
- Provision of knowledge about health for individuals and families through personal media (e.g. Migrant Health Volunteers) and printed media;
- Provision of counseling and supporting participation in health promotion activities;
- Promotion of oral health and prevention of oral diseases, for example, oral health exam, dental health counseling, fluoride supplements in groups at high-risk of dental caries/tooth decay;
- Disease control.

The health insurance package does not cover the following benefits:

- Psychosis;
- Treatment and rehabilitation of persons addicted to narcotic drugs and other addictive substances;
- Victims injured by vehicles who have rights afforded to them by the Protection for Motor Vehicle Victims Act;
- Infertility treatment;
- Artificial insemination;
- Sex reassignment surgery;
- Any act for cosmetic purposes without medical indication;
- Any inspection, diagnosis, or treatment carried out without necessity and medical indication;
- Treatment for the same disease on an inpatient basis for more than 180 days, except if there is a necessity to continue treatment due to complications or medical indication;
- Experimental treatment;
- Treatment for patients with end state renal disease (ESRD) by Peritoneal Dialysis and Haemodialysis;
- Organ transplant;
- False teeth.

Ministerial Regulation on Contributions to the Migrant Repatriation Fund is approved by Cabinet Resolution

On 10 June 2013, the Cabinet passed a resolution that approves in principle the draft ministerial regulation specifying the fee levels and occupations for which employees have to contribute to the Migrant Repatriation Fund. The ministerial regulation also provides for a reduction in the contribution to the Migrant Repatriation Fund to a flat rate of THB 1,000 for all migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Burma/Myanmar. The required period for deducting the contribution from the employee's wage has been reduced from six months to four months, or as otherwise agreed in writing between employer and employee.

The ministerial regulation will enter into effect on **1 March 2014**.

Statistics

Table 1. – Numbers of migrants who have entered the migrant regularization process (as per the Cabinet resolution on 15 Jan 2013), as of 13 April 2013

Nationality	Migrant Workers	Migrant Children
Cambodia	122,899	1,598
Lao PDR	66,082	912
Myanmar/Burma	353,841	1,124
Total	542,822	3,634

Table 2. – Numbers of migrants who have completed nationality verification and possess a valid work permit in Thailand, as of April 2013

Nationality	Migrant Workers
Cambodia	84,829
Lao PDR	30,939
Myanmar/Burma	847,475
Total	963,243

Table 3. – Numbers of migrants who have been recruited through MOU process and possess a valid work permit in Thailand, as of April 2013

Nationality	Migrant Workers
Cambodia	72,717
Lao PDR	13,638
Myanmar/Burma	22,965
Total	109,320

Source: Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour

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The Migrant Information Note is produced by the Labour Migration Programme, IOM Thailand Office.

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