

# GMS Flash Alert

## Immigration Edition

2021-231 | September 3, 2021



# Thailand - Recommencing Visa Issuance and Certificates of Entry in Certain Cases

The Royal Thai Embassies and Consulates in each location around the world have the right and obligation to monitor the COVID-19 situation in each of their respective locations for purposes of deciding whether to lift or tighten restrictions. Starting from the third week of August 2021, the Thai Embassies and Consulates in Bangladesh<sup>1</sup>, India<sup>2,3</sup>, Nepal<sup>4</sup>, and Pakistan<sup>5</sup> have been resuming accepting applications for visas and Certificates of Entry (COEs) for Thai and non-Thai nationals in exceptional cases as follows:

1. Thai nationals;
2. Diplomats who have a reason to work in Thailand, along with their family members;
3. Businesspersons, experts, investors with visas and work permits valid in Thailand or those who are invited, requested, or approved by Thai governmental agencies to travel to Thailand;
4. Non-Thai nationals whose family members are residing in Thailand with proof of residency, namely certificate of residency and permit for temporary stay in Thailand (longer than 90 days); or
5. Spouses, children, and parents of Thai nationals who are travelling together or are returning to a family in Thailand.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

In light of the evolving changes and travel restrictions, it is important for companies and their globally-mobile employees to keep apprised of this very fluid situation and plan accordingly.

With the suspension of activities, restrictions of mobility, and travel disruptions, employers are having to re-consider their personnel and work arrangements. Resuming the issuance of visas and COEs for foreign nationals and Thai nationals travelling from the aforementioned countries to Thailand provides some relief for employers that have employees temporarily stranded in these countries who cannot return to Thailand. The situation is evolving rapidly; employers/employees that qualify as exceptional cases in these countries should consider acting swiftly to make sure they are able to get into Thailand before any further changes take place.

---

## Background

On 1 May 2021, the Thai government cancelled and suspended the issuing of Certificates of Entry (COEs) and visas for foreign and Thai nationals who wish to enter Thailand from certain countries until further notice. Countries from which travellers are banned from entering Thailand included Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan (we covered this in [GMS Flash Alert 2021-141](#), 12 May 2021).

## More Details

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Certain locations only process applications where applicants can demonstrate the necessity and urgency of their entry into Thailand. Details regarding processes and processing times will depend on the location where the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate is situated.

---

## KPMG NOTE

For those who qualify as exceptional cases, we at the KPMG International member firm in Thailand would highly recommend getting in touch with the Thai Embassy/Consulate in the respective location for more information in order to prepare the necessary documents for approval to enter Thailand.

Please keep in mind that all individuals arriving in Thailand are required to undergo a 14-day quarantine period in Alternative State Quarantine (ASQ, a designated hotel quarantine).

---

## FOOTNOTES:

1 Announcement from the Royal Thai Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh ([click here](#)).

2 Announcement from the Royal Thai Embassy, New Delhi, Republic of India at:  
<http://newdelhi.thaiembassy.org/en/2021/08/resumption-coe-visa-issuance-essentials-travelers/>.

3 Announcement from the Royal Thai Consulate-General, Mumbai, India, at:  
<https://mumbai.thaiembassy.org/en/content/announcement-resumption-of-coe-visa-issuance-f-2?cate=5d74ff3715e39c0a7c000fd7>.

4 Announcement from the Royal Thai Embassy, Kathmandu, Nepal, at:  
<https://www.thaiembnepal.org.np/uploads/info/1629266287.pdf>.

5 Announcement from the Royal Thai Embassy, Islamabad, Pakistan, at:  
<https://islamabad.thaiembassy.org/en/content/resumption-of-visa-services-and-certificate-of-ent?cate=5d76078d15e39c4934002005>.

\* \* \* \*

## Contact us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional\* or one of the following professionals with the KPMG International member firm in Thailand:



**Lynn Tastan**  
Partner  
Tel. +66 2 677 2477  
[ltastan@kpmg.co.th](mailto:ltastan@kpmg.co.th)



**Tanittha Cha-Um**  
Associate Director  
Tel. +66 2 677 2466  
[thanittha@kpmg.co.th](mailto:thanittha@kpmg.co.th)



**Wanpratueng Ramgomut**  
Associate Director  
Tel. +66 2 677 2565  
[wanpratueng@kpmg.co.th](mailto:wanpratueng@kpmg.co.th)

\* Please note the KPMG International member firm in the United States does not provide immigration or labour law services. However, KPMG Law LLP in Canada can assist clients with U.S. immigration matters.

**The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in Thailand.**

© 2021 KPMG Phoomchai Holdings Co., Ltd., a Thai limited liability company and a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved.

[www.kpmg.com](http://www.kpmg.com)

[kpmg.com/socialmedia](http://kpmg.com/socialmedia)



© 2021 KPMG LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved.

The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International. The KPMG name and logo are trademarks used under license by the independent member firms of the KPMG global organization.

KPMG LLP is the U.S. firm of the KPMG global organization of independent professional services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. The KPMG global organization operates in 147 countries and territories and has more than 219,000 people working in member firms around the world.

Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such. KPMG International Limited is a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG International Limited and its related entities do not provide services to clients.

Flash Alert is a GMS publication of KPMG LLP's Washington National Tax practice. To view this publication or recent prior issues online, please click [here](#). To learn more about our GMS practice, please visit us on the Internet: [click here](#) or go to <http://www.kpmg.com>.