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## **Embassy Announcement**

### **The period of stay for foreigners granted a tourist visa entering into the Kingdom of Thailand**

On 25 November 2008, the Royal Thai Police made the Order on the change of the period of stay for foreigners granted a tourist visa and of the immigration rules on the extension of the period of stay as follows:

1. The period of stay for passport holders of the countries granted visa exemption for tourism purposes

The Royal Thai Police Order No. 778/2551, dated 25 November B.E 2551 (2008), shall supersede clause 3 of the Royal Thai Police Order No. 608/2549 and has been complied by the immigration officer accordingly. The essence of the Royal Thai Police Order No.778/2551 is summarised as follows:

1.1 Passport holders from 41 countries and 1 special administrative region- Hong Kong SAR, are exempted from tourist visa requirements and will be permitted to stay in the Kingdom of Thailand for the period of not exceeding 30 days on each visit, with no limitation on the number of visits. This has repealed the Royal Thai Police Order No. 608/2549, which allows passport holders of the said countries to stay in the Kingdom of Thailand for the period of not exceeding 30 days on each visit but with a total period of stay not exceeding 90 days within a period of 6 months.

1.2 If such passport holders enter the Kingdom of Thailand at the immigration checkpoints which border her neighboring countries, they will be allowed to stay for up to 15 days on each visit, except Malaysian nationals who cross the borderline from Malaysia whose granted period of stay will be up to 30 days on each visit.

1.3 The change of the said immigration rules is to facilitate the aforesaid passport holders into the Kingdom of Thailand through the international immigration checkpoints by allowing them to enter and depart with no limitations on the number of visits and days permitted

(except as provided for by the new Order i.e. up to 30 days for each visit). The reduction of the period of stay for tourists from 30 days to 15 days when entering into the Kingdom of Thailand via land borders is to prevent those foreigners not being genuine tourists, from using the immigration checkpoints via land borders as one of the channels to work illegally in the Kingdom of Thailand or to commit other illegal activities.

2. The criteria for the consideration of the extension of the period of stay

The Royal Thai Police Order No.606/2549 and the Royal Thai Police Order No.56/2551 shall be repealed by the Royal Thai Police Order No.777/2551, dated 25 November B.E. 2551 (2008). The gist of which is to relax the conditions relating to the extension of the period of stay for those entering into the Kingdom of Thailand for tourism purposes. The Immigration Bureau is now in the process of making an Order to implement the Royal Thai Police Order No.777/2551.

