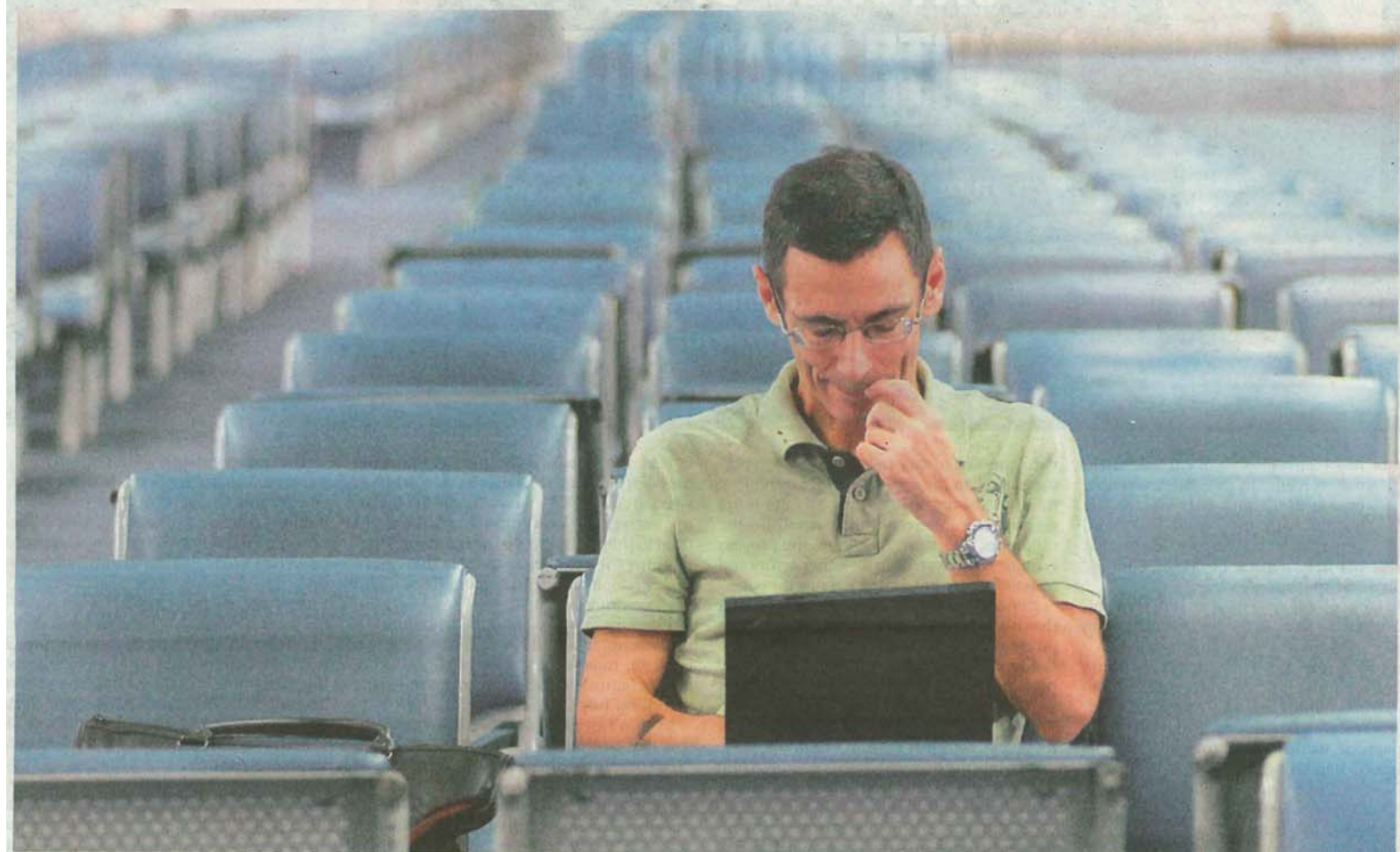




Expat Counsel



FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN THAILAND: The 90-day notification thing III

Last time we talked about the requirement of notifying the Thai immigration authorities if you are in Thailand on a non-immigrant visa and plan to stay more than 90 days. We mentioned that the notification is accomplished by filing an immigration form TM.47 with the immigration authorities and how to do this by post.

The TM.47 can be hand delivered to the immigration authorities by you or by a personal representative such as a friend or someone in your office. This can be done within seven days before the 90-day period ends and seven days after it ends. In Bangkok, you can do this by taking the TM.47 and your passport containing your 1) last arrival/departure form and 2) last receipt for filing TM.47, if you have done this before, to any of the following locations:

COUNTER 3 (90 days registration)

■ Immigration Bureau
507 Soi Suan Phlu

Sathon Tai road
Thung Mahamek
Bangkok 10120

THE ONE STOP SERVICE CENTRE

■ 555 Rasa Tower 2, 16 Floor,
Phahon Yothin road
Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900

The National Airport Immigration Division at Suvarnabhumi airport.

Ship crew members can also do this at the Bangkok Harbour checkpoint, Klong Toey district. Those working for a Thailand Board of Investment enterprise can also do this at the Thailand Board of Investment, Visa Service Section, Ratchadaphisek road, Bangkok.

Outside Bangkok, if it is to be done in person, the TM.47 has to be taken with your passport to the nearest immigration office.

What you will get when you have filed

the TM.47 is a piece of paper stapled into your passport entitled "Receipt of Notification", which tells the date of the notification and the date the next one is due, if you don't leave the country in the interim.

There is another way to avoid the requirement of notifying the immigration authorities every 90 days if you reside in Thailand. It's called a residence permit, but it's limited to foreign nationals who 1) hold non-immigrant visas and 2) have been living in Thailand for at least three years on the basis of one-year extensions of non-immigrant visas. To qualify you have to apply and fit into one of the following categories:

- Investment
- Working/Business
- The applicant has a spouse, parent or single child who is a Thai citizen or has a Thai residence permit
- Expert in certain fields
- Extraordinary circumstances, determined on a case-by-case basis.

Every year quotas for the number of

residence permits allowed for various nationalities are published in the Government Gazette. There is an application fee of at present 7,600 baht. You can get detailed information and forms in Bangkok at Sub-Division 1, Bangkok Immigration Division, Immigration Bureau (3rd floor, room number 301). Outside Bangkok you can get the information and forms at any immigration office.

Anyone over 14 who is accepted for a residence permit is subjected to fingerprinting and a thorough criminal background check. The fee for the permit is now 191,400 baht for those in the investment, working/business and expert categories. The fee for the permit for most others is 95,700 baht. ■

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