



Guide on Import/Export License in Thailand

Foreword

This guide has been prepared for the assistance of individuals willing to apply for import and export license in Thailand. Though it does not exhaustively cover the subjects it deals with, but it does intend to answer some of the important points. However, if any specific issue arises in practice, it will be necessary to refer to the laws and regulations of Thailand and seek proper legal advice.

Introduction

Trading business is not limited by the Foreign Business Act of 1999, which makes it an appealing business option to most foreign entrepreneurs in Thailand.

According to the Act, a foreigner has the leverage to invest in an import or export business without even having a 51% Thai shareholder. In fact, they don't have to ask for permission from the government in Thailand. Also, there is no overarching law that regulates the import of goods, meaning that goods can be imported into the country without any restriction.

However, Thai laws do restrict the import of certain goods. But then yes, if you are thinking that there is no law at all, then must be fooling yourself. Definitely, there are some government policies that are involved in keeping a tab on the import of goods.

- **Benefits of FBA, 1999:** If you are willing to do import or export business in Thailand, then you must derive a license. It is only then you can enjoy the facilities mentioned in the Foreign Business Act, 1999.

- **Gateway to Export Programme:** The Export Programme is designed to provide new and inexperienced exporters all the support and guidance they need. This includes free action planning, customized and subsidized training, ongoing support and support in paying a visit to potential markets.
- **Global Growth:** Exporters are given free service offering a strategic review and planning and support to assist you to grow your business overseas. It may include sharing your experience as well as problems with so many other experienced exporters.
- **Business Opportunities:** You will be open to a wide range of business opportunities. Only when you have a license you can exercise your rights.

3 Good Reasons to Invest in Thai Imports & Exports

1. Cost Competitive Environment
2. International Business in English
3. Good Facilitators

2017's Top 10 Imports of Thailand

Thailand imported US\$225.1 billion of goods from around the globe in 2017 up by 15% from 2016 to 2017.

1. Electrical machinery, equipment: US\$42.3 billion (18.8% of total imports)
2. Mineral fuels including oil: \$31.6 billion (14.1% of total imports)
3. Machinery including computers: \$27.4 billion (12.1% of total imports)
4. Gems, precious metals: \$15.3 billion (6.8% of total imports)
5. Iron, steel: \$10.6 billion (4.7% of total imports)
6. Vehicles: \$9.2 billion (4.1% of total imports)
7. Plastics, plastic articles: \$8.7 billion (3.9% of total imports)
8. Articles of iron or steel: \$7.1 billion (3.2% of total imports)
9. Optical, technical, medical apparatus: \$5.6 billion (2.5% of total imports)
10. Organic chemicals: \$4.3 billion (1.9% of total imports)

2017's Top 10 Exports of Thailand

Thailand shipped US\$236 billion of goods across the world in 2017, up by 3.3% since 2013 and up by 10.5% from 2016 to 2017.

1. Machinery: \$40.2 billion (17% of total exports)
2. Electronic Equipment: \$34.1 billion (14.4% of total exports)
3. Vehicles: \$28.5 billion (12.1% of total exports)
4. Rubber: \$16.3 billion (6.9% of total exports)
5. Gems, precious metals: \$12.8 billion (5.4% of total exports)
6. Plastics: \$12.7 billion (5.4% of total exports)
7. Mineral fuels including Oil: \$8.2 billion (3.5% of total exports)
8. Meat, seafood preparations: \$6.3 billion (2.7% of total exports)
9. Medical, technical equipment: \$5.7 billion (2.4% of total exports)
10. Cereals: \$5.4 billion (2.3%)

Import/Export in Thailand License Process

Step #1

File declaration document either manually or via the EDI system

Step #2

Prepare the supporting documents

Step #3

Submit the Declaration alongside supporting documents to the customs as they will be checked for completion. Duty calculation, customs tariff and valuation of goods are examined too.

Step #4

Pay Import duties and taxes by electronic fund transfer through the BOT's BAHTNET, Kung Thai Bank and EDI. Also, one can make payment at the Customs Department.

Step #5

For inspection and release of cargo from the Customs requires the importer to submit verified Declaration along with the payment receipt at the warehouse. Only if the inspected cargoes correspond to the Declaration made, they will be released.

Documents Required

- Three copies of invoice
- Foreign transaction form
- Packing list
- Bill of Lading or Air Waybill
- Import License (only if applicable)
- Release form (customs form 100/1 or 469)
- Relevant documents like product specifications and catalogues, etc
- Certificates of Origin (only if required)