

COUNTRY INSTRUCTIONS

General Instructions: THAILAND (TH)

1. SHIPMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

a. WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS:

(1) All personnel NOT assigned to Joint United States Military Advisory Group Thailand (JUSMAGTHAI), Armed Forces Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (AFRIMS), the Regional Office In Charge of Construction (ROICC), the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), or the Joint Personnel Accounting Command (JPAC) are restricted to 25 percent of JFTR weight allowance or 2,500 pounds, whichever is greater, as all Government Quarters for DoD personnel are fully furnished and loaner furniture is available during the overseas tour.

(2) JUSMAG, AFRIMS, ROICC, NAVFAC, and JPAC personnel are authorized to ship their full JFTR weight entitlement as JUSMAG, AFRIMS, ROICC, NAVFAC, and JPAC personnel are allowed to seek housing on the economy. (CH 01-Jul-2011, SDDC-PAC RB)

(3) Regardless of authorized weight entitlement, all incoming personnel receiving a Living Quarters Allowance (LQA) or Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) fall under Chief of Mission authority, and as such, are restricted to size limitations of quarters based on rank/grade (or equivalent) as follows (expressed in square feet):

.....SES/O7-O10.....	GS13-GS15/O5,O6.....	GS5-GS12/E1-O4	
Occupancy 1-2.....	1,870.....	1,426.....	1,286
Occupancy 3-4.....	2,361.....	2,057.....	1,870
Occupancy 5-6.....	2,712.....	2,408.....	2,174
Occupancy 7+.....	2,852.....	2,548.....	2,314

Due to the above housing size limitations, incoming personnel should consider shipping an amount of personal property that will fit into the square footage indicated above. If incoming personnel ship an excess of personal property that will not fit into their quarters, shipping the excess personal property back to origin is not authorized, and storage for the excess items will be at their expense. (CH SDDC-PAC 23-Sep-2011 RB)

b. CONTAINER/CRATING REQUIREMENTS:

No restrictions identified. Recommend crates be lined with plastic, if possible.

c. HARD LIFT AREA:

Hard lift area for Army (UB only). Air clearance, when required, will be obtained from the appropriate Air Clearance Authority (ACA).

d. UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE:

Commercial air is preferred method of shipment for baggage.

2. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND RESTRICTIONS:

Personal property is cleared through customs duty-free only within 6 months after date of member's arrival. Six months applies to POVs also. Restrictions do not apply if the member will have Diplomatic status.

3. CONSUMABLES:

None.

a. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

No restrictions identified.

b. CIGARETTES/TOBACCO PRODUCTS:

No restrictions identified.

c. COSMETICS:

No restrictions identified.

d. FOOD STUFFS AND MEATS:

No restrictions identified.

e. MEDICATION (NARCOTICS)/PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS:

No restrictions identified.

4. ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT:

None.

a. HOME COMPUTERS:

No restrictions identified.

b. TVs/VCRs:

No restrictions identified.

c. OTHER (i.e. COMPATIBILITY, ETC)

No restrictions identified. Electricity is 220 volts/50 cycles.

5. FURNITURE, OVERSIZED:

No restrictions identified, however, quarters may have limited space.

6. PETS/QUARANTINE:

a. If a member will go directly into permanent housing it is convenient to bring a pet as excess baggage. Sending a pet as unaccompanied baggage will incur additional clearing costs which must be paid by the member. Local veterinary services have VERY limited boarding facilities. Cats and dogs require a valid/current health certificate and rabies vaccinations certificate. Health certificate should be issued within 15 days of arrival in Thailand.

b. Pets other than cats and dogs require special pre-clearance. Arrangements should be made in advance. Notify GSO/Customs and Shipping Unit, American Embassy Bangkok, APO AP 96546-0001, (facsimile number 011-662-255-2913) at least one month in advance if bringing birds, reptiles or animals other than cats and dogs. Also, it is the owner's responsibility to comply with CITES (endangered species) regulations and have a valid CITES certification. The Customs and Shipping Unit will perform pre-clearance and obtain information on Thai requirements if provided with the scientific name of an endangered pet.

7. PRIVATELY OWNED FIREARMS (POF):

Importation of personal firearms into Thailand is authorized. Thai law prohibits the importation/registration of police/military type weapons, including war trophy firearms. In accordance with American Embassy and JUSMAGTHAI Directives, all US Armed Forces personnel and DOD civilians desiring to bring firearms into Thailand must request, in advance of shipment, the approval of the Chief, JUSMAGTHAI. Requests for approval must be addressed to HQ JUSMAGTHAI/MAGTAP CAS, who has been delegated the authority to approve or disapprove requests. The request must specify the type, model, caliber, make, and serial number of each firearm, and requestor's full name, rank, current official address, and unit of assignment in Thailand. Forward requests by mail or electrical message. JUSMAGTHAI will send copies of written approval to the American Embassy, ATTN: Customs and Shipping Unit, and the Regional Security Office, and other appropriate law enforcement agencies. A copy of JUSMAGTHAI Directive No. 600-6, Importation, Possession and Control of Privately-Owned Firearms, will be forwarded to the member along with the approval for importation of personal firearms.

a. HAND GUNS:

None.

b. RIFLES/SHOT GUNS:

None.

c. TOY RELATED GUNS:

None.

d. OTHER (i.e. AMMO, EXPLOSIVES, ETC):

None.

8. PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES (POVs):

None.

a. POVs: (includes data on prohibited vehicles, colors, etc.)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand, requires the following information on POVs to clear customs: make, model, year, engine number, serial number (VIN), color, cylinders, horse power, radio, air conditioner, approximate date of member's arrival in Thailand. Without this complete information, processing of POVs through Thai customs cannot commence until the vehicle is on Thai soil and pick up of POV will be delayed 10-15 working days. There are no restrictions on age, color, lighting, or other requirements necessary for registration. However, tinted windows with more than 40 percent tinted films are prohibited.

b. MOTOR CYCLES/MOPEDS:

Motorcycles/mopeds may be imported and are considered to be POVs. Only one POV can be imported duty-free. Under no circumstances should motorcycles/mopeds be included as part of the HHG shipment.

c. GASOLINE/CATALYTIC CONVERTERS:

Catalytic converters and seatbelts are required.

d. INSURANCE AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:

POV must be inspected by Thai traffic officials prior to licensing. Vehicles should be in top mechanical condition. Spare parts for most American-made cars are either unobtainable or expensive. The following are suggested for inclusion in HHG: extra spark plugs, oil/air filter, fan belt, extra points, condenser and heavy duty shock absorbers. Royal Thai Government requires all vehicles to be covered by third party liability insurance which MUST be purchased locally from a Thai company. As this policy provides minimum benefits and no property damage coverage, the Embassy strongly recommends additional insurance which may be purchased locally or through a US company licensed to provide coverage in Thailand. USAA no longer insures POVs in Thailand. Avoid insurance that may invoke a diplomatic defense.

9. SEXUALLY EXPLICIT/PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL:

No restrictions identified.

10. STUFF WILD LIFE/ANIMALS AND PLANT RESTRICTIONS:

Items are inspected upon arrival. Plants requires a health certificate and import license. Several plants from many countries are prohibited. Inquire in advance at the nearest Thai Embassy or Consulate.

11. TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT:

None.

a. CBS:

The Thai Government requires advance description of items as follows: wave, size, weight and cube, what items are to be used for, and reason for importation to Thailand. American Embassy and JUSMAGTHAI require the above information in advance in order to request import approval from the Post and telegraph department prior to arrival of shipment in country.

b. AMATEUR/HAM RADIOS:

Permission is required prior to import. Recommend notifying the GSO/Customs and Shipping Unit, American Embassy Bangkok, APO AP 96546-0001, (facsimile number 011-66-2-255-2913) prior to shipment. Certain restrictions apply.

c. MARS EQUIPMENT:

The Thai Government requires advance description of items as follows: wave, size, weight and cube, what items are to be used for, and reason for importation to Thailand. American Embassy and JUSMAGTHAI require the above information in advance in order to request import approval from the Post and telegraph department prior to arrival of shipment in

country.

d. DISH ANTENNAS:

The Thai Government requires a permit for antennas over 10 milli-watts.

e. CORDLESS PHONES:

The Thai Government requires a permit for telephones over 10 milli-watts. Items must be shipped in UAB, not in hand-carried or checked luggage.

12. SEPARATEES/RETIREEES ENTITLEMENTS/LIMITATIONS:

a. Personnel contemplating retirement/separation in Thailand should be counseled all customs entry requirements remain a personal matter between the member and the Thai Government. The member should contact the nearest Consulate or Embassy for information regarding customs and quarantine entry requirements prior to shipment. Computation methods to determine import taxes are complex and variable. It may be advantageous for the member to hire a local customs brokerage agent to process shipments. HHG for retired personnel must be cleared using member's passport and it must contain a current resident visa issued by Thai immigration department. Member must contact Customs and Shipping Unit at the American Embassy, Bangkok, as soon as possible for importation documents.

b. Consign personal property directly to the member at their address in Thailand.

c. POV: Consign directly to the member. One copy of the member's orders must be attached to the Private Vehicle Shipping Document (DD Form 788) and be forwarded via certified mail to the US Embassy. Documents will be held until the member calls for them upon arrival in Bangkok. To import a POV, member must request permission to import from the Ministry of Commerce at least 1 month before the vehicle arrives in country. A resident visa is also required. All charges to clear the POV must be borne by the member. POV storage is not authorized for personnel retired/separated in Thailand.

13. OTHER:

None.
