



Thailand Visa Policy Reform and Enhanced Entry Screening

Thailand's proposed termination of the 60-day visa-free scheme signals a shift toward tighter immigration control aligned with a broader policy objective of promoting sustainable and higher-value tourism.

From a legal perspective, the move indicates increased scrutiny over foreign entry and stay conditions. The intention to reintroduce prior visa requirements, alongside the development of country-specific visa categories, suggests a more segmented regulatory framework. This may lead to differentiated compliance obligations depending on nationality, purpose of stay, and economic profile of visitors.

The emphasis on stricter screening measures, including verification of financial status, sources of funds, and supporting documentation, reflects a more robust due diligence approach. This aligns immigration control more closely with regulatory concerns beyond tourism, including financial transparency and prevention of unlawful economic activity.

Additionally, the reference to concerns over foreign residents avoiding tax obligations highlights a growing intersection between immigration enforcement and tax compliance. Increased coordination between authorities may result in heightened monitoring and enforcement actions against individuals who fail to meet legal requirements, potentially exposing them to administrative or criminal liability.

The proposed policy shift remains subject to cabinet approval, and its final scope will depend on implementing regulations. However, the direction of reform points toward a more controlled and compliance-driven immigration regime, with implications for individuals and businesses relying on flexible entry arrangements in Thailand.