



Thailand Sets a Clearer and Faster Path to Deportation

Thailand has introduced a new framework for deporting foreign nationals following the publication of the Prime Minister Office 's Regulation on Deportation B.E. 2569 in the Royal Gazette. The regulation is intended to make deportation procedures faster and more effective in protecting public order, morality and safety. It authorises the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, or an authorised representative, to refer cases involving foreigners whose conduct threatens public order to the Interior Minister for a deportation decision. The framework applies to a range of conduct, including illegal entry or stay, unlawful employment, violations of the Foreign Business Act, forgery of official documents, serious criminal offences punishable by at least five years' imprisonment, and participation in such offences as a principal, instigator or supporter.

The regulation creates a more structured link between criminal proceedings and immigration enforcement. Where a foreign national has served a prison sentence following a final conviction, the Interior Minister may order deportation immediately upon release. To facilitate this, the Corrections Department must provide the Permanent Secretary with the individual's name, nationality and case information at least 15 days before release. Court must also promptly notify the authorities where a sentence is suspended or a fine is imposed. A deportation order may additionally prohibit the individual from re-entering Thailand, giving the framework consequences beyond the immediate removal process.

The apparent policy objective is to reduce procedural delays and enable authorities to act more quickly where foreign nationals have committed serious offences or otherwise breached Thai immigration, employment or business law. By requiring information sharing before a prisoner's release and establishing a defined referral process to the Interior Minister, the regulation seeks to avoid situations in which deportation proceedings begin only after the individual has already completed the criminal process. The government has also linked the measure with a broader "zero tolerance" approach toward foreign visitors who violate Thai law or engage in conduct considered contrary to public order or social peace.

At the same time, the regulation expressly requires deportation to comply with applicable laws, Cabinet resolutions and Thailand's international obligations. Foreign nationals will ordinarily be returned to their country of nationality or, where nationality is uncertain, their last reported country of residence before entering Thailand. The framework also allows a foreign country or international organisation to request transfer to its territory or a third country where concerns exist over torture, cruel or inhumane treatment, threats to dignity or enforced disappearance. Such a request must generally be made within seven days of the deportation order, the requesting party must bear the expenses, and the deportee must provide written consent. The transfer is generally to be completed within 30 days, subject to limited extensions.

From a legal and business perspective, the regulation makes immigration consequences more immediate for foreign nationals whose activities breach Thai law. Foreign employees, investors, directors and business operators should recognise that violations involving immigration status, work authorisation, unlawful business operations or serious criminal conduct may trigger a more coordinated path from enforcement proceedings to deportation and possible re-entry restrictions. For employers and businesses engaging foreign personnel, the development reinforces the importance of immigration, work-permit and Foreign Business Act compliance. More broadly, the regulation strengthens Thailand's enforcement machinery while leaving the practical application of its safeguards—particularly where removal may expose an individual to serious harm—as an important area to monitor.

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us via info@bgloballaw.com

