

The Ministry of Labor's Announcement on  
Prescribing occupation in which a Foreign Worker is prohibited to engage

By virtue of the first paragraph of Section 7 of the Emergency Decree on Foreigners' Working Management, B.E. 2560 (2017), as amended by the Emergency Decree on Foreigners' Work Management (No. 2) B.E. 2561 (2018), the Minister of Labor with the approval of the Foreigners' Work Management Policy Committee on 11 March 2020 issued the following announcement:

Article 1 This announcement shall come into force after sixty days from the date of its publication in the Government Gazette;

Article 2 The work as specified in List Number One attached to this announcement, or work that a law requires practitioners to have Thai nationality, is strictly prohibited to foreign workers in all areas of the Kingdom;

Article 3 The occupations as specified in List Number Two attached to this announcement is prohibited to foreign workers in all areas of the Kingdom, with a condition that foreigners are allowed to do the occupation in accordance with international agreements or obligations to which Thailand is bound under the provisions of law;

Article 4 The occupations as specified in List Number Three attached to this announcement is prohibited to foreign workers in all areas of the Kingdom, with a condition that foreigners are allowed to do the craftwork or semi-craftwork only when working for an employer;

Article 5 The occupations as specified in List Number Four attached to this announcement is prohibited to foreign workers in all areas of the Kingdom, with a condition that foreigners are allowed to do the occupation only when working for an employer and being permitted to enter the Kingdom in accordance with the law on immigration under the memorandum of agreement or memorandum of understanding made by the Thai government with foreign governments;

Recruiting foreigners to work with employers under the first paragraph shall be in accordance with the conditions announced by the Director-General of the Department of Employment;

Article 6 Subject to the provisions of the law, for any occupation that requires permission or certification in accordance with the rules and conditions prescribed by law, foreigners can apply for a work permit only after receiving such a permission or certificate under that law.

Announced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Minister of Labour

**Lists attached to the Ministry of Labor's Announcement on Occupations that are Prohibited to Foreign Workers in Thailand**

**List 1**

**Occupations that is strictly prohibited to foreign workers:**

- (1) Wood carving;
- (2) Driving of motor vehicles or driving of vehicles that do not use machines or engines in the country, except for international aircraft piloting or forklift driving;
- (3) Auctioning
- (4) Cutting or polishing diamonds or gemstones
- (5) Hair cutting, hair perming or beautifying
- (6) Handweaving of clothes
- (7) Mat weaving or making wares using reeds, rattan, jute, straw, bamboo, bamboo pulp, grass, chicken feather, coconut leaf stalk, fiber, wire or other materials;
- (8) Making Saa paper by hand;
- (9) Making Lacquerware;
- (10) Making Thai musical instruments;
- (11) Making nielloware;
- (12) Making goldware, silverware or copper-alloy ware;
- (13) Making copper-tin alloy ware polished with stone powder;
- (14) Making Thai dolls;
- (15) Making alms bowl;
- (16) Making silk products by hand;
- (17) Making Buddha images;
- (18) Making paper or cloth umbrellas;
- (19) Brokerage or agency work, except for brokerage or agency work in international trade or investment;
- (20) Thai massage;
- (21) Cigarette rolling by hand;
- (22) Tour guides or tour operations;
- (23) Peddling;
- (24) Manual typesetting of Thai characters;
- (25) Pulling or twisting silk yarn by hand;
- (26) Clerical or secretarial work;
- (27) Legal services or services in legal proceedings, except for the following occupations:
  - (A) Performing duties of arbitration;
  - (B) Providing assistance or representation in the arbitral proceedings in the event that the law applicable to the dispute being considered by the arbitrator is not Thai law.

## **List 2**

**Occupations prohibited to foreign workers with a condition that foreign workers are allowed to do the work in accordance with international agreements or obligations to which Thailand is bound under the provisions of law**

(1) Controlling, auditing, performing or providing accounting services, except for the following occupations:

(A) Occasional internal audit work;

(B) Work under international agreements or obligations to which Thailand is bound, for which the Professional Council provides a certification of qualifications;

(2) Work in engineering – civil engineering related to consultancy, project planning, designing and calculating, organizing, researching, testing project, construction supervision or providing advise, except those who are registered as a professional engineer under the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) as well as other international agreements related to cross-border engineering services or licensees of engineering practice in the field of civil engineering under the law on engineers;

(3) Work in architectural profession related to project study, design, management and construction supervision, inspection or consulting work, except for professional architects under the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for architectural services as well as other international agreements on cross-border architectural services from the Council of Architects or licensees of architectural practice under the law on architects;

### **List 3**

#### **Occupations prohibited to foreign workers with a condition that foreign workers are allowed to do the craftwork or semi-craftwork only when working for an employer**

- (1) Agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry or fishery;
- (2) Masonry, carpentry, or construction work;
- (3) Making mattress or quilt;
- (4) Making knives;
- (5) Making shoes;
- (6) Making hats;
- (7) Making costumes;
- (8) Making pottery.

#### **List 4**

**Occupations prohibited to foreign workers with a condition that foreign workers are allowed to do the work only when working for an employer and being permitted to enter the Kingdom in accordance with the law on immigration under the memorandum of agreement or memorandum of understanding made by the Thai government with foreign governments**

(1) Labour;

(2) Shop front sellers

## Definition of Occupations Prohibited to Foreign Workers

### List 1

#### Occupations Strictly Prohibited to Foreign Workers

No.	Occupations	Definition
1	Wood carving	Wood carving or carving decorative patterns on wood, preparation of wood and carving on wood to make decorative patterns on furniture, decorations and other wares, as well as repair and modification.
2	Driving of motor vehicles or driving of vehicles that do not use machines or engines in the country, except for international aircraft piloting or forklift driving	Driving motor vehicles, including trams, to transport goods and passengers by road, water, air, or driving vehicles in the country that do not use machines or engines, except for international aircraft piloting or driving a forklift installed with equipment for lifting or moving things.
3	Auction	Work related to valuation and auction of property or goods, including real estate, livestock, and agricultural products.
4	Cutting or polishing diamonds or gemstones	All or part of the cutting into shape and polishing diamonds or gemstones or precious stones with machines, as well as repair and modification of diamonds or gemstones or precious stones.
5	Hair cutting, hair perming or beautifying	Hair cutting, hair perm, hair washing, hair dyeing, hair styling and hair design services for both men and women, makeup, cosmetic work, individual feature enhancement, facial massage, manicure and beauty enhancement for customers in various ways, but not including the following: (1) providing services or supporting or general facilitation, such as equipment preparation and cleaning, foot washing, etc; (2) Makeup, hairdressing, or hair design, for which the worker travels from abroad to work in a film production with permission to make a foreign movie in the Kingdom under the law on movies and videos.
6	Handweaving of cloth	Weaving cloth and carpets with hand loom, as well as spinning cotton or silk yarn with a spinning machine, reeling two or more yarns onto a tube without twisting, reeling yarn from one tube to another, reeling yarn to prepare for weaving, inspecting defects in cloth or fabric, and repairing cloth or fabric

No.	Occupations	Definition
7	Mat weaving or making wares using reeds, rattan, jute, straw, bamboo, bamboo pulp, grass, chicken feather, coconut leaf stalk, fiber, wire or other materials	Weaving mats or making wares using reeds, rattan, jute, straw, bamboo, bamboo pulp, grass, chicken feather, coconut leaf stalk, fiber, wire or other materials by hand or using a loom or a weaver that is not a machine, as well as repair and modification works
8	Making Saa paper by hand	Processing Saa barks through various steps until it results in sheets of paper as thick or thin as needed to make umbrellas, to be used as wrapping paper and for other uses
9	Making lacquerware	Weaving bamboo strips into containers or other wares, then coating with a type of traditional lacquer to make them solid and the surface smooth, then polishing, and carving and decorating them with patterns and colors through various techniques
10	Making Thai musical instruments	Making Thai traditional musical instruments, including strings, drums, winds and others, from materials by hand or machine, as well as decoration, repair and modification works
11	Making nielloware	Making metal products, and decorating the surface using lead enamel to create patterns
12	Making goldware, silverware or copper-alloy ware	Making wares or decorations by bending, hammering or cutting gold, silver, copper alloy or other precious metals into various shapes, as well as soldering or welding to piece several parts together and carving patterns onto the surface, and polishing up
13	Making copper-tin alloy ware polished with stone powder	Cutting, hammering, bending or pressing metals, mostly brass and copper, into wares or decorations, then polishing with stone powder by hand or machine, as well as decoration, repair and modification
14	Making Thai dolls	Making Thai dolls, cast or stuffed by hand or machine, as well as decoration, repair and modification
15	Making alms bowl	Shaping metal sheets, mostly cast iron, by bending, hammering, polishing into an alms bowl or making alms bowls by casting metals into molds, and then coating or smoking and polishing, as well as repair work
16	Making silk products by hand	Using silk to make or using silk with other materials in making clothes, costumes, hats, wares and decorations, by hand or machine

No.	Occupations	Definition
17	Making Buddha images	Making Buddha images by casting, welding, sculpting, carving, reprinting, pressing, and other methods, as well as surface decoration and repair of Buddha images
18	Making paper or cloth umbrellas	Making umbrellas using paper or cloth by hand, as well as repair and modification
19	Brokerage or agency work, except for brokerage or agency work in international trade or investment	Working as an intermediary or contact between two parties to make deals on insurance, trading commodities, trading or renting and letting property, or trading or participating in business services, and receiving a commission in return, except for the work related to international trade or investment
20	Thai massage	Examination, diagnosis, treatment, healing, prevention of diseases, nourishing and restoring health using knowledge of the arts of Thai massage following Thai traditional medical practice according to the law on Thai traditional medicine profession
21	Cigarette rolling by hand	Cigarette rolling work starting from cutting or slicing tobacco leaves, then rolling into the leaf sheets, dry banana leaf or rolling papers, and packing tightly, then cutting both ends of the cigarette evenly
22	Tour guides or tour operations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tour guide work means to bring tourists, whether individually or in groups, to travel to various locations, and provide advice and information for tourists;</li> <li>2. Tour operations means to bring tourists to travel for sightseeing or for other purposes, and provide one or more services or facilities, i.e., accommodation, food, guide or any other services</li> </ol>
23	Peddling	Bringing goods to sell at various locations by carrying or bearing on the shoulder or loading in trolleys, bicycles, motorcycles or motor vehicles, or in paddling or rowing boats or motor boats.



No.	Occupations	Definition
24	Manual typesetting of Thai characters	Bringing Thai characters of various sizes to arrange on a stick to form texts with spaces and lengths of lines exactly matching the original, then sliding it down the loading rails and into the proof paper printer; changing cases when there are mistakes. When printing is finished, separate the letters and put them into each corresponding slot in the storage.
25	Pulling or twisting silk yarn by hand	Using hands to pull and twist two or more silk yarns out of silk worms; connecting silk yarns that are broken during pulling and twisting; keeping silk yarns that have been pulled and twisted in a basket or a container; then reeling silk yarns on a reeler made of bamboo or reeling them into skeins.
26	Clerical or secretarial work	<p>1. Clerical work means work involving shorthand writing, typing, teletyping, punching cards, tape punching, receiving-paying money, collecting money, calculation of production costs, calculation of wages and working hours, factotum, dispatch carrier, answering phone calls, taking in or sending out things, overseeing stock of goods, warehouse inventory, weighing, letter correspondence, accounting, general administration, receiving and sending documents, personnel, insurance, public relations, reception, booking travel tickets, library, filing documents, statistics, survey, enumeration, editing and coding, proofreading, printing, photocopying, copying documents, addressing documents, and other jobs in the role of clerks or staff in the clerical level as determined by the establishment</p> <p>2. Secretarial work means work involving recording of statements, reports or accounts with shorthand, typing accounts from notes written in shorthand or from a dictation recorder, making appointments for the superior and reminding the superior when an appointment is due, welcoming those who come to meet the superior, inquiring, answering questions and making contact via telephone, presenting personal and important letters and mails as well as letters and</p>

No.	Occupations	Definition
		documents from various departments sent to the superior, drafting correspondence letters, filing documents, as well as supervising staff and other tasks as assigned by the superior
27	<p>Legal services or services in legal proceedings, except for the following work:</p> <p>(A) Performing duties of arbitration;</p> <p>(B) Providing assistance or representation in the arbitral proceedings in the event that the law applicable to the dispute being considered by the arbitrator is not Thai law.</p>	<p>Providing services in legal counselling, litigation and others such as representing as a lawyer in all types of cases, acting on behalf of clients in legal matters, drafting contracts or making legal documents, etc.</p> <p>Except for the following work:</p> <p>(A) Performing duties of an arbitrator in an arbitration case;</p> <p>(B) Any work performed for the Arbitral Tribunal or the parties to the dispute in order to assist or facilitate the arbitral proceedings to be completed successfully or the work to either defend or to act on behalf of either party in the event that the law applicable to the dispute being considered by the arbitrator is not Thai law, and shall include the following work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Liaison for cases, research, compile, and provide opinion on facts and legal issues to the arbitral tribunal or the parties;</li> <li>2. Take notes during the hearing using shorthand or other techniques in the same manner;</li> <li>3. Presentation of opinions as an expert</li> <li>4. Works involving special technology used in recording sound, images and evidence produced in the hearing</li> </ol>

## List 2

Occupations prohibited to foreign workers with a condition that foreign workers are allowed to do the work in accordance with international agreements or obligations to which Thailand is bound under the provisions of law

No.	Occupations	Definition
1	<p>Controlling, auditing, performing or providing accounting services, except for the following work:</p> <p>(A) Occasional internal audit work;</p> <p>(B) Work as per international agreements or obligations to which Thailand is bound, for which the Professional Council provides a certification of qualifications;</p>	<p>Providing accounting services for individuals, juristic persons, groups of persons, foundations, associations, enterprises, private agencies, state enterprises, or government agencies, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All or partial accounting work;</li> <li>2. Audit, internal audit, due diligence/cash monitoring;</li> <li>3. Keeping financial records on behalf of an organization, management of financial matters for an organization or customers;</li> <li>4. Reception, exchange, and payment of money in banks and offices;</li> <li>5. Use of computer, various electronic devices, programs, software, for calculation, recording and processing of accounting and financial data;</li> <li>6. Other services related to accounting in various branches, such as bookkeeping, auditing, administrative accounting, setting an accounting system, tax accounting, and education and accounting technology, as well as consultancy, development and training;</li> <li>7. Supervision of works in 1 – 6;</li> </ol> <p>This shall include the performance of duties in one or more of the following capacities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Independent service provider;</li> <li>(2) Owners, executives, employees, or staff at all levels of the accounting service agency or an organization, whether it be persons, juristic persons, groups of persons, enterprises, private agencies, state enterprises, or government agencies;</li> </ol> <p>Except for the following work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) Occasional internal audit;</li> <li>(B) Work as per international agreements or obligations to which Thailand is bound, for which the Council of Accounting Profession is to certify qualifications.</li> </ol>

No.	Occupations	Definition
2	Work in engineering – civil engineering related to consultancy, project planning, designing and calculating, organizing, researching, testing project, construction supervision, or providing advise, except those who are registered as a professional engineer under the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) as well as other international agreements related to cross-border engineering services or licensees of engineering practice in the field of civil engineering under the law on engineers	Civil engineering work relating to consultancy, project planning, design and calculation, supervision of construction or production, inspection, facilitating system set up, researching, testing, except those who are registered as a professional engineer under the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) as well as other international agreements related to cross-border engineering services or licensees of engineering practice in the field of civil engineering under the law on engineers, who are allowed to work under specified conditions.
3	Work in architectural profession related to project study, design, management and construction supervision, inspection or consulting work, except for professional architects under the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for architectural services as well as other international agreements on cross-border architectural services from the Council of Architects or licensees of architectural practice under the law on architects;	Work in the architectural profession involving project studies, design, management and supervision of construction, inspection, consultancy, except for professional architects under the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for architectural services as well as other international agreements on cross-border architectural services from the Council of Architects or licensees of architectural practice under the law on architects, who are allowed to work under the conditions prescribed by the Council of Architects.

### List 3

Occupations prohibited to foreign workers with a condition that foreign workers are allowed to do the craftwork or semi-craftwork only when working for an employer

No.	Occupations	Definition
1	Agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry or fishery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agriculture means work that requires knowledge or skills in cultivation of grains, vegetables, horticulture, perennials, shrubs and others;</li> <li>2. Animal husbandry means work that requires knowledge or skills about animal breeding, animal conservation, taking care of animals, and catching animals to obtain meat, milk, fur, hide, silk, honey, etc.;</li> <li>3. Forestry means work that requires knowledge or skills in cultivation of seedlings, planting trees, forest conservation, exploitation of forests, and processing wood into charcoal, or extracting crude oil from wood, or others;</li> <li>4. Fishery means work that requires knowledge or skills relating to fishing, aquaculture, taking care of aquatic animals, processing aquatic animals, as well as any actions that support fisheries.</li> </ol>
2	Masonry, carpentry, or construction work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Masonry means work that requires knowledge or skills in constructing, assembling, installing and repairing a base or foundation, walls and other structures with bricks, stones or similar materials;</li> <li>2. Carpentry means work that requires knowledge or skills in cutting, shaping, assembling, installing, maintaining and repairing structures and structural components made of wood, measuring, assembling and modifying components of buildings, both interior and exterior, such as walls, doors, door and window frames, ceiling and wall panels;</li> <li>3. Building construction means work that requires knowledge or skills in building, installing, maintaining and repairing buildings and other structures, for example, making concrete model, pouring concrete, retouching the concrete surface, making metal reinforcement, erecting concrete structures supplemented with various materials, roofing, terrazzo flooring, flooring and walling with tiles</li> </ol>

No.	Occupations	Definition
		or mosaics, plastering on walls and ceilings, installing insulating materials on walls, floors and ceilings, cutting and assembling glass panes into windows or doors, painting, installing drain and water pipe systems, installing sanitary ware, electrical wiring inside buildings or other structures
3	Making mattress or quilt	Work that requires knowledge or skills in making mattress or quilts from various materials by hand or machine as well as repair and modification
4	Making knives	Work that requires knowledge or skills in making all types of knives from metal using hand-controlled tools, as well as repair and modification of knives
5	Making shoes	Work that requires knowledge or skills in making all types of shoes from various materials, as well as repair and modification of shoes
6	Making hats	Work that requires knowledge or skills in making hats for men, women, and children from all kinds of materials, as well as repair and modification of hats
7	Making costumes	Work that requires knowledge or skills in designing and sewing men's and women's clothes from start to finish, or other works related to costume making, as well as alteration, modification or fixing of clothes
8	Making pottery	Work that requires knowledge or skills in making pottery, starting from preparing clay and molds, sculpting and compacting clay into molds, coating, drawing decorative patterns, drying and burning, either whole or part of this work

#### List 4

Occupations prohibited to foreign workers with a condition that foreigners are allowed to do the work only when working for an employer and being permitted to enter the Kingdom by the law on immigration under the memorandum of agreement or memorandum of understanding made by the Thai government with foreign governments

No.	Occupations	Definition
1	Labour	Manual work and usually simple work which requires mainly physical strength
2	Front shop sales	Selling goods at a wholesale or retail establishment as well as selling goods at stalls or shops located in markets or roadside