



CHECKLISTS FOR DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR THAI DRIVING LICENSE

(You will need to sign all photocopied documents)

When applying for your first Thai driving license, you will receive a Temporary License good for two years. Not more than 2 months before that license expires, you can apply for a five year license. You can apply for renewal of the 5 year license for another 5 years up to 6 months before the 5 year license expires.

NOTE: Although the main Land Transport Office (LTO)'s websites state the above as the permissible periods for renewal, we have received reports that some Provincial LTOs may limit it to a lesser time period – consequently, we recommend you go as close to expiration date as possible to avoid difficulties; or have a Thai speaking person contact the Provincial LTO you will use to determine the time period they accept.

A foreigner applying for a Thai driving license must include with their documents a certificate showing their residence (from Thai Immigration or their Embassy).

NOTE: Getting a certificate from your Embassy may be significantly more expensive and inconvenient than getting it from Thai Immigration. The Residence Certificate cannot be more than 30 days old when applying for the driving license. Some Immigration Offices may take more than one day to issue the Certificate. [Click here](#) for information on getting the Certificate of Residence from Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration which is usually obtained the same day as application – fee is 300 Baht.

There are several shops across the street from the Banglamung Branch Office of the LTO that make photocopies. No photographs are needed as the new style Thai Driving License uses a digital photograph, which is taken by the LTO staff. Click on the applicable Driving License for a list of what is needed:

[Two Year License \(Temporary License\)](#)

[Initial Five Year License](#)

[Renewal of Five Year License](#)

Temporary License – Two Year

Documents needed for a foreigner:

1. Photocopy of Passport pages showing identity and visa/visa extension stamp
2. Photocopy of a Valid Thai Work Permit - required only if you have one
3. Original Medical Certificate (*) not more than 30 days old
4. Original Certificate of Residence from Thai Immigration or your Embassy (required if you do not have a work permit – see item 2)
5. Photocopy of unexpired Driving License from your own country (if you have one) – you will need original to show to the LTO staff (if you do not have original, you will be required to take a written and driving test). If you do not have an IDP – see item 6 – the Banglamung (Pattaya) LTO had been requiring a photocopy certified by your Embassy (**)
6. Photocopy of International Driving Permit (IDP) from your home country (if you have one) – you will need original to show to the LTO staff - make photocopies of the pages that have information about you and your driving license. If you do not have the IDP OR a recent certification from your Embassy – see item 5 – as to the validity of your driving license, you will be required to take a written test and driving test.
7. Fee for Car License of 205 Baht and/or Fee for Motorcycle License of 155 Baht
8. Upon receipt of your new license, look it over before leaving the LTO to be sure everything is accurate (your current address will be on the reverse side below the Restrictions section, but it will be in Thai script, so unless you read Thai script or have a Thai with you, about all you can verify is the house/unit number and postal code).

Documents needed for a Thai: Items 3 & 7 plus a copy of Thai Identity Card front and back (have original available for examination).

(*) Most clinics and hospitals in Pattaya have the blank forms. Go to one of them and tell them you need a medical certificate for getting a Thai driving license. In the smaller clinics you will most likely hand them the fee and they will hand you the completed and signed form with no examination. Some clinics and hospitals may do a very cursory examination. The fee will vary with the normal fee at small clinics being from 100 to 150 Baht.

(**) Banglamung LTO is now requiring a Certification from your Embassy certifying your country/state driving license if you don't have an IDP. Further, the certification is to have a photocopy of the license included on it. For American Citizens, the US Embassy will not notarize any document that contains a photocopy. They are in process of developing a document that they hope will be acceptable to the Banglamung LTO.

NOTE: If you are applying for both a car and motorcycle license, you will need a complete set of documents for each application - photocopies of the Medical Certificate and Immigration Residence Letter may be used for one of the two applications.

CAUTION: Be sure the issue date of your IDP is before your arrival date in Thailand. An Expat reported that they were not able to use their IDP because the kind hearted clerk that issued it to them in their home country tried to be helpful. IDPs expire one year after issuance, so the clerk post dated the IDP to after the date they would arrive in Thailand. The LTO rejected their IDP because it's issue date was after the date they arrived in Thailand.

[Return to First Page](#)

Five Year License (Initial)

Documents needed for a foreigner:

1. Photocopy of Passport pages showing identity and visa/visa extension stamp
2. Photocopy of a Valid Thai Work Permit (required only if you have one)
3. Original Medical Certificate not more than 30 days old (*)
4. Original Residence Certificate from Thai Immigration or your Embassy not more than 30 days old (if you do not have a Work Permit – see item 2)
5. Photocopy of temporary Thai driving license
6. Fee for Car License of 605 Baht and/or Fee for Motorcycle License of 355 Baht
7. Upon receipt of your new license, look it over before leaving the LTO to be sure everything is accurate (your current address will be on the reverse side below the Restrictions section, but it will be in Thai script, so unless you read Thai or have a Thai with you, about all you can verify is the house/unit number and postal code)

Documents needed for a Thai: Items applicable 3, 5,& 6 plus photocopy of Thai Identity Card front and back (have original available for examination).

(*) Most clinics and hospitals in Pattaya have the blank forms. Go to one of them and tell them you need a medical certificate for getting a Thai driving license. In the smaller clinics you will most likely hand them the fee and they will hand you the completed and signed form with no examination. Some clinics and hospitals may do a very cursory examination. The fee will vary with the normal fee at small clinics being from 100 to 150 Baht.

NOTE: If you are applying for both a car and motorcycle license, you will need a complete set of documents for each application - photocopies of the Medical Certificate and Immigration Residence Letter may be used for one of the two applications.

[Return to First Page](#)

Five Year License (Renewal)

Documents Needed for a foreigner:

1. Photocopy of Passport pages showing identity and visa/visa extension stamp
2. Photocopy of a Valid Thai Work Permit (required only if you have one)
3. Original Residence Certificate from Thai Immigration or your Embassy not more than 30 days old (if you do not have a Work Permit – see item 2)
4. Photocopy of Original 5 year Thai driving license (have original available for examination)
5. Fee for Car License of 605 Baht and/or Fee for Motorcycle License of 355 Baht
6. Upon receipt of your new license, look it over before leaving the LTO to be sure everything is accurate (your current address will be on the reverse side below the Restrictions section, but it will be in Thai script, so unless you read Thai script or have a Thai with you, about all you can verify is the house/unit number and postal code)

Documents needed for a Thai: Items applicable 4 & 5 plus photocopy of Thai Identity Card front and back (have original available for examination).

NOTE: No medical certificate is needed for renewing a 5 year driving license. The Thai Land Transport Department has announced that they are considering adding some conditions that will require a medical certificate; BUT to our knowledge no change has yet been made. We will update this checklist if and when we become aware of the medical certificate being required.

NOTE: If you are applying for both a car and motorcycle license, you will need a complete set of documents for each application - photocopies of the Medical Certificate and Immigration Residence Letter may be used for one of the two applications.

[Return to First Page](#)

RESIDENCE CERTIFICATE - FROM CHONBURI (PATTAYA) IMMIGRATION

Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration charges 300 Baht. If you apply in the morning, it should be ready the same day, but you may be asked to return in the afternoon to pick it up. If applying in the afternoon, you may have to wait till the next day to pick it up.

Note: a Residence Certificate is needed by foreigners to obtain a Thai Driving License and for buying a vehicle. When you enter the Immigration Office, tell them at the Information Counter on your right as you enter that you need a residence letter to get your Thai driving license and pick up the application form (the forms do not have a number) and apparently each Immigration Office has their own version.

The information counter will provide you with the form to be completed. Note on the bottom that it is for a driving license. There is a room behind the counter on the left when you enter that has tables where the documents can be filled out. When it is completed, return to the counter where you picked up the form. They will examine the documents for completeness and direct you to the counter opposite the entry door to get your queue number – tell them it is for residence certificate. The first number will be a “9” for the applicable “desk” and the next two digits are the queue number (starts with 01 each morning).

The various “desks” are located on each side and the back of the room – chairs for sitting until your queue number is called are all in the center. Each desk has a number displayed. Go to Desk 9, which is the first desk on your left and find a seat to await your queue number being announced on the public address system – there is also a display of queue numbers being serviced on the back wall. When your queue number is called/displayed proceed to Desk 9.

They will check your documents, collect the 300 baht fee, hand you a “claim check”, and tell you when to return to pick up your Certificate of Residence. When you return to pick up the Certificate you do not have to get a queue number, just go to Desk 9 and hand them your “claim check.” You can make copies and obtain photos beforehand or you can use the shop adjacent to the Immigration Office that makes photographs and photocopies.

You will need the following:

1. Application for Letter of Residence
2. Two (2) Photographs - Passport Size - approximately 4x5 cm or 1 5/8 x 2 inches (*)
3. Passport Original

4. Photocopies of pages in your passport - (a). Identity Page (b). Latest Visa/Visa Extension Stamp (c). Last Entry Stamp into Thailand
5. Photocopy of your Departure Card (should be stapled in your passport)
6. Evidence of your current address - Ownership papers, rental agreement, lease, etc. (**)
1. Evidence that you reside at the address - utility bill, cable/satellite TV bill, etc. showing your name and the address
7. Fee for Letter - 300 Baht

(*) One photo will be retained with the application and the other will be affixed to the Residence Certificate.

(**) We are aware of a person who wanted to purchase a vehicle in Pattaya and drive it upcountry to where he would live. He obtained a letter from his hotel where he was staying and that was accepted by Chonburi (Pattaya) Immigration without a requirement for utility bill, etc..

Note: If obtaining from other than Chonburi Immigration, the requirements may vary. For example, it is reported that Bangkok Immigration will not issue the Residence Certificate unless you have at least one 90 day address report on file. Also, there are reports on various websites that some offices may take several days or weeks to issue the Certificate. The fees too can vary from free to 500 Baht (largest amount we have seen reported).

[Return to First Page](#)