

Port Management and Operations in Thailand

I. Port Management and Operations by the Port Authority of Thailand

The Port Authority of Thailand Act B.E.2494 (1951) as amended by the Act B.E.2543 (2000) listed work activities to be carried out by the Port Authority of Thailand (PAT) including management, monitoring and control of Bangkok Port, Laem Chabang Port and other designated ports. Currently, there are five public ports under the supervision of PAT, namely, Bangkok Port, Laem Chabang Port, Ranong Port, Chiang Saen Port and Chiang Khong Port. PAT is allowed to make decisions on appropriate management and operations of each port under its control, provide that such decisions must correspond to PAT's work objectives as stipulated by the Act.

The Thai government has a policy to promote private participation in port and port business so as to help boosting Thailand's trade and economic expansion. The present privatization policy relating to maritime transport services has mainly concentrated on the privatization of the Port Authority of Thailand. After several years of consideration by the government, not much progress has been made since there is a strong opposition to some proposals leading to drastic changes in PAT. The matter is now awaiting clearer direction and guidance from the government.

In response to the government's privatization policy, the operations of Laem Chabang Port have been contracted out to private operators by means of concession. Phase III of Laem Chabang Port will be ready and open for international bidding in 2010, provided that the interested foreign operator must set up a joint venture company with the Thai operator to operate the berth with at least 51% of Thai equity.

The contact point for further information is:

Port Authority of Thailand (PAT)

Project and Planning Department

Tel: (662) 240-2252, 269-3136

Fax: (662) 671-8817, 249-0885

II. Port Operations : Other Ports

For the operations of other major public ports as well as private ports, the Thai Government has maintained the policy that the private sector be allowed to participate in port services either by operating the existing facilities in such ports or funding the development of and operating the new or additional facilities.

Port operators are required to fulfil the technical requirements in order to obtain permission in constructing and operating their ports. This is to ensure non-obstruction of navigation channel, port safety and economic viability. If all requirements are met, the following permits will be issued by the competent authorities to the port operators:

1. Berth Construction Permit issued by the Marine Department before constructing the port according to the Navigation in Thai Waters Act B.E. 2456.
2. Berth Inspection Permit issued by the Marine Department before the port is put into operation according to the Navigation in Thai Waters Act B.E. 2456.
3. Port Business Permit issued by the Ministry of Transport through the Marine Department according to the National Executive Council No. 58 concerning the Business Affecting Public Security and Well-being.

The contact points for further information are:

(1) Port construction and safety (berth inspection) permits
Harbour Master Division
Marine Safety and Environment Bureau
Marine Department
1278 Yotha Rd., Samphanthawong, Prompraab, Bangkok 10100, Thailand
Tel: (66-2) 234-1070 Fax: (66-2) 238-2309
Email: hm@md.go.th

(2) Port operational permit
Maritime Business Regulation Group
Maritime Promotion Bureau
Marine Department
19 Pra-Athit Rd., Pra Nakorn, Bangkok 10200, Thailand.
Tel: (662-2) 2807900 ext. 405, 408 Fax: (662) 282-5856
