

## Export Prohibitions and Restrictions

The Thai Government controls the import and export of certain goods into/out of Thailand. The controls either take the form of:

- an absolute prohibition, which means that you are not allowed to import the goods in any circumstances; or
- a restriction, where you need to have written permission in order to import the goods.

## Samples of Prohibited and Restricted Goods

The following information broadly outlines what goods are prohibited or restricted, where you can obtain more information about the control and, in the case of restricted goods, to apply for permission to import.

**1. Prohibited Goods** are goods for which either the import into or export out of Thailand are prohibited. Any person imports or exports prohibited goods is considered as committing offences and subject to penalties indicated in the relevant national legislation. In addition, such activity is also considered as an offence under Articles 27 and 27 bis of the Customs Act B.E. 2469. It is prohibited by law to bring the following items into Thailand.

- Obscene objects/literature/pictures
- Pornographic materials
- Goods with Thai national flag
- Narcotics e.g., marijuana, hemp, opium, cocaine, morphine, heroin
- Fake currency, bonds, or coins
- Fake Royal Seals/official seals
- IPR infringing goods e.g. musical tape, CD, VDO, computer software, etc.
- Counterfeit trademark goods

**2. Restricted Goods** are goods of which the imports and exports are restricted by law and therefore require a permit from the related government agencies. Any person imports or exports restricted goods is considered as committing offences and subject to penalties indicated in the

relevant national legislation. In addition, such activity is also subjected to the offence under Articles 27 and 27 bis of the Customs Act B.E. 2469.

The Act Controlling the Importation and Exportation of Goods authorizes the Ministry of Commerce exert control over the exporting of products. At present, close to 50 items require such control. Certain goods require export licenses under other laws, such as seeds, trees, and leaves of tobacco. Certain goods, such as sugar and rice, are subject to export licenses under the Export Standard Act, which aims to ensure that such exports are of a set quality. In addition, the exporters of agricultural commodities may find that membership to trade associations is mandatory. These associations may in turn impose their own regulations for membership.

Thai Customs is charged to stop the importation and exportation of prohibited goods. In addition, it is also designated to intercept the importation and exportation of restricted goods, ensuring that all relevant laws and regulations are followed properly. The comprehensive list of prohibited and restricted goods as well as information about the control and, in the case of restricted goods, to permission to import, may be obtained from the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce.