

## Australia-Thailand Free Trade Agreement

Some outcomes for Australia:  
Services and Investment,  
**Foreign Investment**

Thailand will permit majority Australian ownership of mining operations (up to 60%). The current limit is 49.9%.

Thailand will permit Australian companies which manufacture goods in Thailand to provide distribution services in relation to those goods without limitation of Australian equity (i.e. up to 100%).  
The current limit is 49.9%.

Thailand will permit majority Australian ownership of companies providing certain construction services (up to 60%).  
The current limit is 49.9%.

Thailand will permit majority Australian ownership of companies providing management consulting services through a regional operating headquarters or associated company or branch (up to 60%).  
The current limit is 49.9%.

Thailand will permit majority Australian ownership of major restaurants or hotels (up to 60%). The current limit is 49.9%.

Thailand will permit majority Australian ownership of tertiary education institutions specialising in science and technology (up to 60%) (provided it is located outside of Bangkok). The current limit is 49.9%.

Thailand will permit majority Australian ownership of companies providing certain maritime cargo services (up to 60%).

The current limit is 49.9%.

The agreement incorporates provisions on investment protection which guarantee a range of rights of Australian direct investors in Thailand, including the right to transfer their funds out of Thailand at any time. The agreement will give Australian investors the right to seek impartial resolution of any disputes with the Thai government over their investments.

### Temporary Entry of Business People

Thailand will grant a visa and work permit for up to five years' stay for all Australian citizens being transferred to work in Thailand within the same company (to be renewable annually) (currently one year).

Thailand will grant a visa and work permit for up to three years' stay for all Australian citizens entering Thailand to work on the basis of a contract with a company other than their employer in Australia (to be renewable annually) (currently one year).

Thailand will not require a work permit for Australian citizens who are business visitors conducting business meetings in Thailand for up to 15 days, and up to 90 days for APEC Travel Card Holders.

Thailand will consider applications for visas and work permits submitted by an employer on an applicant's behalf and advise in advance of approval and (with visa to be granted on arrival subject to identity verification).

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Thailand will permit all Australian business visitors access to the one-stop visa and work permit service (currently restricted to visitors representing or employed by major investors).

Thailand will permit all Australians who hold work permits to participate in business meetings anywhere in Thailand, including locations not specified in their work permits (current work permits must be changed if any work is to be conducted in a location not specified in the permit).

Thailand will reduce the number of documents required from Australians for work permits and renewals and work permits.

Both countries are working to start the agreement at the beginning of 2005.

Full provisions of the agreement are available at [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)

Source: Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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