

Guidance for Travelers under Treatment Carrying Personal Medications Containing Narcotic Drugs/Psychotropic Substances out of Thailand

This guidance issued by the Narcotics Control Division, Food and Drug Administration, Provides travelers under medical treatment with current regulations concerning the transport of personal medications containing narcotic drugs of Category 2, or psychotropic substances of Categories 2, 3, and 4.

The transport of any medications into/out of Thailand for personal use may be subject to a range of stringent import and export controls.

The import and export of narcotics and/or psychotropic substances into/out of Thailand are general prohibited. Those travelers under treatment who need to carry medications containing narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances into/out of Thailand must follow the applicable regulations strictly.

1. Carrying Personal Medications out of Thailand

A. Medications containing narcotic drugs of category 2

The Ministry of Public Health issued the Ministerial Regulation B.E. 2564 (2021) under the Narcotics Code and the Act Promulgating the Narcotics Code, B.E. 2564 (2021). According to the regulation, travelers out of Thailand under medical treatment are allowed to carry medications containing narcotic drugs of Category 2 for personal treatment in **a quantity not exceeding 90 days of prescribed usage** and must follow the applicable regulations strictly.

Travelers under treatment of these medications are required to obtain a permit (Form OC-2) issued by the Food and Drug Administration **before traveling out of Thailand.**

The quantity of the medication transported out of Thailand **must not exceed 90 days of prescribed usage.**

The permit (Form OC-2) is applicable for patients treated by physicians in Thailand who would like to carry medications containing narcotic drugs in category 2 for personal use out of Thailand.

The permit (Form OC-2) also covers the remaining medication of those patients when they return to Thailand.

To request for the permit, please apply using online service on <http://permitfortraveler.fda.moph.go.th/> at least two weeks before the departure date. After we receive the completed online application, we will take around 3 working days to proceed your application and issue the permit.

We recommend that travelers use PC or laptop to apply the online application (it cannot be done on mobile phone) and use Chrome browser for submission. Once the permit is granted, it will be sent by email.

Travelers are required to print out the permit and present the medications with the permit and medical documents at the red channel at the airport customs of Thailand upon request.

The travelers do not need to send the original documents to Thai FDA. Please keep the original documents with you while you are traveling.

The following documents must be submitted in an online application:

- 1.1 Copy of passport
- 1.2 Medical prescription or Medical document with physician's sign who provided the medical treatment, which must contain the following:
 - The name and address of the patient
 - The identified medical condition
 - The name of the medications, the strength, instruction for use and the reason that those medications were prescribed for the patient's treatment.
 - The posology and total amount of medications prescribed
 - The name, address and license number of the prescribing physician

The category of substances can be searched from <http://permitfortraveler.fda.moph.go.th/>

Examples of narcotic drugs in category 2 according to the Narcotics Code and the Act Promulgating the Narcotics Code, B.E. 2564 (2021): Codeine, Dihydrocodeine, Diphenoxylate, Fentanyl, Hydrocodone, Hydromorphone, Methadone, Morphine, Oxycodone, Pethidine, Tapentadol, Tilidine.

B. Medications containing psychotropic substances of categories 2, 3, and 4

According to the Narcotics Code and the Act Promulgating the Narcotics Code, B.E. 2564 (2021), Travelers out of Thailand under treatment are allowed to transport medications containing Psychotropic substances of categories 2, 3, and 4 for personal treatment in **a quantity not exceeding 30 days of prescribed usage** when accompanied by a certificate/ medical prescription from the prescribing physician.

The certificate/medical prescription from the prescribing physician must indicate:

- The name and address of the patient
- The identified medical condition
- The name of the medications, the strength, instruction for use and the reason that those medications were prescribed for the patient's treatment
- The posology and total amount of medications prescribed
- The name, address and license number of the prescribing physician

The quantity of the medications carried out of Thailand **must not exceed 30 days of prescribed usage. The permit from Thai FDA is not required.**

Examples of psychotropic substances in Categories 2, 3, 4 according to the Narcotics Code and the Act Promulgating the Narcotics Code, B.E. 2564 (2021):

Category 2: Alprazolam, Brotizolam, Buprenorphine, Estazolam, Flunitrazepam, Flurazepam, Loprazolam, Lorcaserin, Lormetazepam, Methylphenidate, Midazolam, Nimetazepam, Nitrazepam, Phentermine, Pseudoephedrine, Temazepam, Triazolam, Zolpidem, Zopiclone.

Category 3: Amobarbital, Butalbital, Cyclobarbital, Glutethimide, Meprobamate, Pentazocine, Pentobarbital.

Category 4: Barbital, Bromazepam, Chlordiazepoxide, Clobazam Clonazepam, Clorazepate, Delorazepam, Diazepam, Etizolam, Oxazepam, Lorazepam, Medazepam, Phenobarbital, Pinazepam, Prazepam.

2. Prohibited Medications Containing Narcotic Drugs/ Psychotropic Substances in Thailand

With the exception of medications containing narcotic drugs of Category 2 or psychotropic substances of categories 2, 3, and 4 under the Narcotics Code and the Act Promulgating the Narcotics Code, B.E. 2564 (2021) described above, the importation/exportation of medications containing narcotic drugs/ psychotropic substances into/ out Thailand is prohibited.

Examples of the medications that Travelers are forbidden from transporting into/out of Thailand:

Narcotic Drugs: Narcotic drugs of Category 1 and 5 under the Narcotics Code and the Act Promulgating the Narcotics Code, B.E. 2564 (2021), e. g. **Amphetamine, Dexamphetamine**, etc. These substances are prohibited and have been determined to have no medical use in Thailand.

*** Note*** Currently the importation/exportation of medicinal products that made from Cannabis are prohibited. The regulations for traveler import/export those medications are not implemented yet.

Psychotropic substances: Psychotropic substances of category 1 under the Narcotics Code and the Act Promulgating the Narcotics Code, B.E. 2564 (2021) e. g. **Cathinone, Dronabinol, GHB**, etc. These substances are prohibited and have been determined to have no medical use in Thailand.

3. Advice for Travelers out of Thailand carrying Medications

- Those travelers carrying **medications containing narcotics of category 2 are required to declare the medications** out of Thailand. Please have all medications and documents prepared and available for inspection:

- Exit from Thailand: you must present the medications/documents at the Customs Department upon request.

- Return into Thailand: you must present the left medications/documents at the Customs Department (Red Channel).

- Those travelers carrying all other medications out of Thailand (including medications containing psychotropic substances of categories 2, 3, and 4) do not have to declare their

medications at the Customs Department (Red Channel) if the medication is for personal treatment in **a quantity not exceeding 30 days of prescribed usage** and accompanied by a certificate/ medical prescription from the prescribing physician. Those medications are then considered personal belongings.

- All related documents should be kept with the travelers while they are traveling.
- The medications must be kept in the original prescription bottles with the contents clearly marked.
- Travelers are forbidden to sell or supply their medications to others.
- As requirements concerning medications may change, travelers should check the requirements on <http://permitfortraveler.fda.moph.go.th/> for the importation/exportation of medications prior to each visit.

4. For more information

The information here provides general guidance for Travelers out of Thailand carrying personal medications containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances. The travelers can find more information from the website below.

<http://permitfortraveler.fda.moph.go.th/>

If you have any questions, please email your inquiry to the Narcotics Control Division, Food and Drug Administration, or contact us as follows:

Email: tnarcotics@fda.moph.go.th

Telephone: +66 2590 7346

Fax: +66 2590 7707

