

FAQ

1. I am taking prescribed dexamphetamine tablets as treatment for my ADHD. Is my medication legal in Thailand?

Answer

Dexamphetamine is classified as a narcotic drug of category I according to the Narcotics Act B.E. 2522 (1979) of Thailand, amended by the Narcotics Act B.E. 2545 (2002). The importation into Thailand of narcotic drugs in category 1 (such as dexamphetamine) **is prohibited** (except for the approved use by a government agency). This prohibition includes those cases in which patients wish to carry those medications for personal medical treatment during visits to Thailand. Therefore, the FDA is not authorized to issue a permit for travelers to Thailand to carry narcotic drugs in category I (such as dexamphetamine) for personal use.

Furthermore, dexamphetamine is not available in Thailand. In this case, please consult your physician as to whether you can use an alternative medication such as methylphenidate for treatment of ADHD or narcolepsy.

Methylphenidate is classified as a psychotropic substance in category 2 according to the Psychotropic Substances Act B.E. 2518 (1975). A patient under treatment is allowed to bring Methylphenidate into Thailand for personal use in a quantity **NOT EXCEEDING 30 DAYS OF PRESCRIBED USAGE** when accompanied by a valid prescription and/or medical document from the prescribing physician.

However, lisdexamfetamine is another alternative. Lisdexamfetamine is classified as medical preparations according to the Drug Act B.E. 2510 (1967). A patient under treatment can carry those medications into Thailand for personal use in a quantity **NOT EXCEEDING 30 DAYS OF PRESCRIBED USAGE**.

For methylphenidate and lisdexamfetamine, when you already have the required document and prescription from the prescribing physician to accompany the medication in question, if you have nothing else to declare you are allowed to pass through the Green Channel at airport customs without declaring the medication because it is then considered as personal belongings.

2. I am taking a medicine called Zopiclone. Do I need to submit Form IC-1?

Answer

No, you don't need to submit Form IC-1. Zopiclone is classified as a psychotropic substance in category 2 according to the Psychotropic Substances Act B.E. 2518 (1975). A patient under treatment of medications in that category such as Zopiclone is allowed to transport those medications into Thailand for personal use in a quantity **NOT EXCEEDING 30 DAYS OF PRESCRIBED USAGE** when accompanied by a valid prescription and/or medical document from the prescribing physician.

- 3. My son has ADHD and takes methylphenidate hydrochloride to manage this condition. I have the original prescription and packaging and a letter from our doctor stating the required information as listed on your website. Is there any thing else I need to do to ensure that I follow the correct procedures?**

Answer

You have properly fulfilled the FDA requirements to legally carry that medication into Thailand. Methylphenidate is classified as a psychotropic substance according to the Psychotropic Substances Act B.E. 2518 (1975). A patient under treatment of medications in that category, such as Methylphenidate, is allowed to transport those medications into Thailand for personal use in a quantity NOT EXCEEDING 30 DAYS OF PRESCRIBED USAGE when accompanied by a valid prescription and/or medical document from the prescribing physician.

In your case, as you already have the required document and prescription from the prescribing physician to accompany the medication in question, if you have nothing else to declare you are allowed to pass through the Green Channel at airport customs without declaring the medication because it is then considered as personal belongings.

- 4. I plan to travel in Asia and have already bought a round-trip ticket to Bangkok for a two-month trip. I use buprenorphine and clonazepam for chronic pain, and I have read that I can only carry into Thailand a dosage to last me for 30 days. I plan to stay in Thailand for about one month, and spend another month in other countries. When I arrive in Thailand I have to carry a two-month supply of medication. My question is: what should I do in this case?**

Answer

Buprenorphine and clonazepam are classified as psychotropic substances according to the Psychotropic Substances Act B.E. 2518 (1975). A patient under treatment of medications in that category is allowed to transport those medications into Thailand for personal use in a quantity NOT EXCEEDING 30 DAYS OF PRESCRIBED USAGE when accompanied by a valid prescription and/or medical document from the prescribing physician.

In your case, we request that on arrival in Thailand you deposit the quantity of your medications exceeding the allowed 30-day usage at the airport Customs Bond. You can deposit your medications there, receive a receipt for them, and then be free to leave the airport. As you depart Thailand through that same airport, first check-in with your airline and receive your boarding pass, then present the receipt for your medication to officials of your airline. You will then be accompanied by an official of your airline to the Customs Bonding Facility to recover your medications.

You can call to ask about customs bonding at Tel. 662 134 0403 or email to : 101299@customs.go.th

- 5. Is it possible to find a doctor in Bangkok to prescribe medications for me that are classified as narcotics or psychotropic substances?**

Answer

Please see **the list of the hospitals** in Thailand where you can discuss your medication requirements with a licensed physician.

- 6. I am writing to ask if the anti-depressant Escitalopram is a restricted medicine in Thailand.**

Answer

Escitalopram is classified as a medical preparation according to the Drug Act B.E. 2510 (1967). It is not classified as a narcotic or a psychotropic substance.

A patient under treatment of medications such as Escitalopram is allowed to transport those medications into Thailand for personal use in a quantity **NOT EXCEEDING 30 DAYS OF PRESCRIBED USAGE** when accompanied by a valid prescription and/or medical document from the prescribing physician.

- 7. If I would like to apply to carry medications containing narcotic drugs of category 2 into Thailand for personal use, do I need to submit both application forms IC-1 and OC-1?**

Answer

No, you are only required to fill in Form IC-1. Following the approval of your application, we will issue a permit (Form IC-2) to authorize you to carry medications containing narcotic drugs of category 2 into Thailand. Form IC-1 also covers your remaining medication upon your departure from Thailand. Therefore, all of these documents must be kept with you throughout your stay in Thailand.

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

- 8. We are planning to arrive in Thailand within the next two weeks, and my husband needs to use medication for his back pain. I would like to know if it is enough for us to have the prescription from his doctor to accompany the medication, or do we need a permit (Form IC-2) from the Thai FDA for Tramadol, which is not found on your list of narcotic drugs. We intend to bring into Thailand a one-week dosage of this medication.**

Answer

Tramadol is classified as a medical preparation according to the Drug Act B.E. 2510 (1967). It is not classified as a narcotic or a psychotropic substance. Therefore, you are not required to apply for a permit to bring Tramadol into Thailand.

A patient under treatment of medications such as Tramadol is allowed to carry those medications into Thailand for personal use in a quantity NOT EXCEEDING 30 DAYS OF PRESCRIBED USAGE when accompanied by a valid prescription and/or medical document from the prescribing physician.

In your case, as you already have the prescription from the prescribing physician to accompany the medication in question, if you have nothing else to declare you are allowed to pass through the Green Channel at airport customs without declaring the medication because it is then considered as personal belongings.