

Restriction on Thailand Firearms Imports

The Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) has received the following guidance from the Thai Ministry of Interior via the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok in relation to USML Category I(a) exports to Thailand.

“1. Bangkok and local registrars are prohibited to issue the permit for order and import of the rifles with the calibers of .223, .30-06, .308, and .338, or equivalent, or under any different name, to firearm shops and ordinary people for 6 months, June 1 – November 30, 2009.

2. Bangkok and local registrars are prohibited to issue the permit for possession and use of the rifles stated in (1), as of June 1 – November 30, 2009.”

The Firearms License Section, Department of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Interior has informed the U.S. Government that all firearms dealers are aware of this Order. Permits on rifles issued prior to this order are still valid in that the permits can be used once the above-stated period is over for order and import. However, it is not known at this time whether the restriction will be extended.

Any orders meeting the above criteria being processed under valid permits will not be allowed to enter Thailand, or be released from the port of entry, until the restriction is lifted.”

Given the above, the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls will return without action to applicants any license applications currently under review for proposed exports to Thailand of rifles meeting the criteria above. Applicants can reapply after November 30, 2009, but should check the website prior to resubmission to ensure that ban has not been extended. Persons holding approved licenses for the export of rifles meeting the criteria above to Thailand are advised not use the licenses prior to the expiration of the ban.

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