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## The Thai Customs Department Clarifies Customs Procedures for Air Passengers' Accompanied Baggage

On 8 March 2018, Mr. Chaiyut Kumkun, Deputy Director-General Acting Principal Advisor on Customs Control Development, as a spokesman, clarified at a press conference issues on social media with regard to Customs procedures such as that for carrying accompanied items such as laptops and cameras by passengers departing from Thailand.

It was clarified by the spokesman of the Thai Customs Department that such Customs procedure specified in Customs Notification No. 60/2561 is intended to facilitate passengers who carry their belongings such as laptops and cameras out of Thailand and will bring back such items. By presenting such belongings to Customs officials upon departure, they will obtain a document, which can be conveniently presented upon arrival in Thailand for duty and tax exemption. This Notification does not state that all passengers must inform the Customs officials and present the accompanied belongings accordingly. **It is optional and does not impose any punishment.** It is a choice for passengers who wish to save time as they would not have to prove to the Customs officials when they take items out of Thailand for purposes like profession and exhibition and bring back.

Also, the spokesman clarified other issues from the same Customs Notification, including that with regard to passengers purchasing goods from duty free shops upon departure and bringing them back into Thailand. The spokesman elaborated that the goods shall be exempted from duty and taxes if their total value is not more than 20,000 baht (except for spirituous liquor, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco, whose permissible quantities are specified) and if the goods are not for sale.

Concerning Customs procedure for check-through baggage inspection, it was explained in two cases:

1) For arriving passengers transiting via Suvarnabhumi Airport to a domestic terminal airport such as Chiang Mai International Airport, hand-carry inspection will be carried out at the first port (Suvarnabhumi International Airport) and baggage inspection will be carried out the last port (Chiang Mai International Airport).

2) For departing passengers, baggage inspection will be carried out the first port (Chiang Mai International Airport), and hand-carry inspection will be carried out at the last port (Suvarnabhumi International Airport).

Moreover, it was announced by the Spokesman that **the above Customs procedures were not new; they were the same as those in the Customs Act, B.E 2469. As the Customs Act, B.E 2469 has been repealed by the Customs Act, B.E. 2560, it is required that Customs Notification No. 60/2561, dated 26 February B.E. 2561 be issued in order to make valid the long-standing Customs procedures relating to accompanied baggage and personal effects accompanied with the owner.**

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