
New Notice on Medical Monitoring Devices and COVID-19 Insurance for Foreigners

On 2 March 2021, the National Task Force Committee for Prevention and Control of COVID-19 ("**Task Force**") issued the Notice on Medical Monitoring Devices and COVID-19 Insurance for Foreigners who wish to Enter Lao PDR ("**Notice**"). The Notice follows, amongst others, the Instruction of the Task Force No. 3078/NTC dated 26 February 2021 ("**Instruction**").

The Notice sets out guidelines on the implementation of: (i) the use of medical monitoring devices; and (ii) purchase of COVID-19 insurance for foreigners who wish to enter Lao PDR, as follows:

1. The use of medical monitoring devices and purchase of COVID-19 insurance shall initially be implemented from 3 March 2021 at Wattay International Airport and extended to other checkpoints nationwide in due course.
2. Diplomats, staff members of international organisations within the United Nations and international organisations that the Lao Government has an agreement to accord diplomatic privilege, and accompanying members of their family authorised by the Task Force to enter Lao PDR, must comply with the Instruction.
3. The relevant governments agencies shall notify the general public and entities arranging for travelers into Lao PDR about these guidelines and strictly follow the procedures set out in the Instruction.

Pursuant to the Instruction, the Task Force has put in place the following procedures and steps for individuals who wish to enter Lao PDR:

- (a) Before arriving in Lao PDR, an individual must obtain a COVID-19 reverse transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction ("**RT-PCR**") Test Certificate showing a negative result. The test must have been carried out within 72 hours prior to entering Lao PDR.
- (b) Upon arrival, the individual must take a COVID-19 RT-PCR test and wear a medical monitoring device. He/she must also buy a COVID-19 insurance from a company approved by the Task Force to sell COVID-19 insurance. The medical monitoring device may be rented from a company approved by the Task Force to rent out such devices.
- (c) If the COVID-19 RT-PCR test result is negative, the individual will then proceed to undergo self-quarantine for 14 days at a facility designated by the Task Force. During the quarantine period, the individual must strictly comply with the instructions of the Task Force.

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The above measures apply to general individuals, diplomats, staff members of international organisations within the United Nations and international organisations that the Lao Government has an agreement to provide diplomatic privilege with, as well as accompanying members of their family authorised by the Task Force to enter Lao PDR. Individuals who are permitted to enter Lao PDR shall be referred hereinafter as "foreigners".

Other relevant matters prescribed under the Instruction include:

- (a) Foreigners shall bear their own expenses during self-quarantine, including COVID-19 test(s) fees, rental fees of medical monitoring devices, and the purchase of the COVID-19 insurance policies.
- (b) Foreigners who are tested COVID-19 positive upon their arrival in Lao PDR will be transferred to restricted premises and sent to hospitals designated by the Task Force. They shall be liable for the costs of treatment and relevant expenses.
- (c) Hotels and restricted premises designated by the Task Force to accommodate COVID-19 positive foreigners, should conduct regular monitoring or inspection of foreigners assigned to them. They must also ensure that these foreigners strictly follow the instructions of the Task Force during the period of quarantine. In cases where the omissions in such hotels and restricted premises result in the quarantined persons spreading the disease to other people in the hotel or restricted premises, the errant individuals and the organisations that initiated the entry of these individuals into Lao PDR shall be liable for all costs of such spread and its consequences.
- (d) The Task Force in local levels shall liaise with the hotels to document their compliance with the obligations as set out in item (c) above.
- (e) The Task Force in the central and local levels and relevant governments/agencies must strictly implement the Instruction.

Visit our [COVID-19 Resource Centre](#) for views from our lawyers across the region on common issues and legal implications brought about by COVID-19. For specific inquiries, please reach out to your relationship partner or send an email to our [COVID-19 Legal Team](#).

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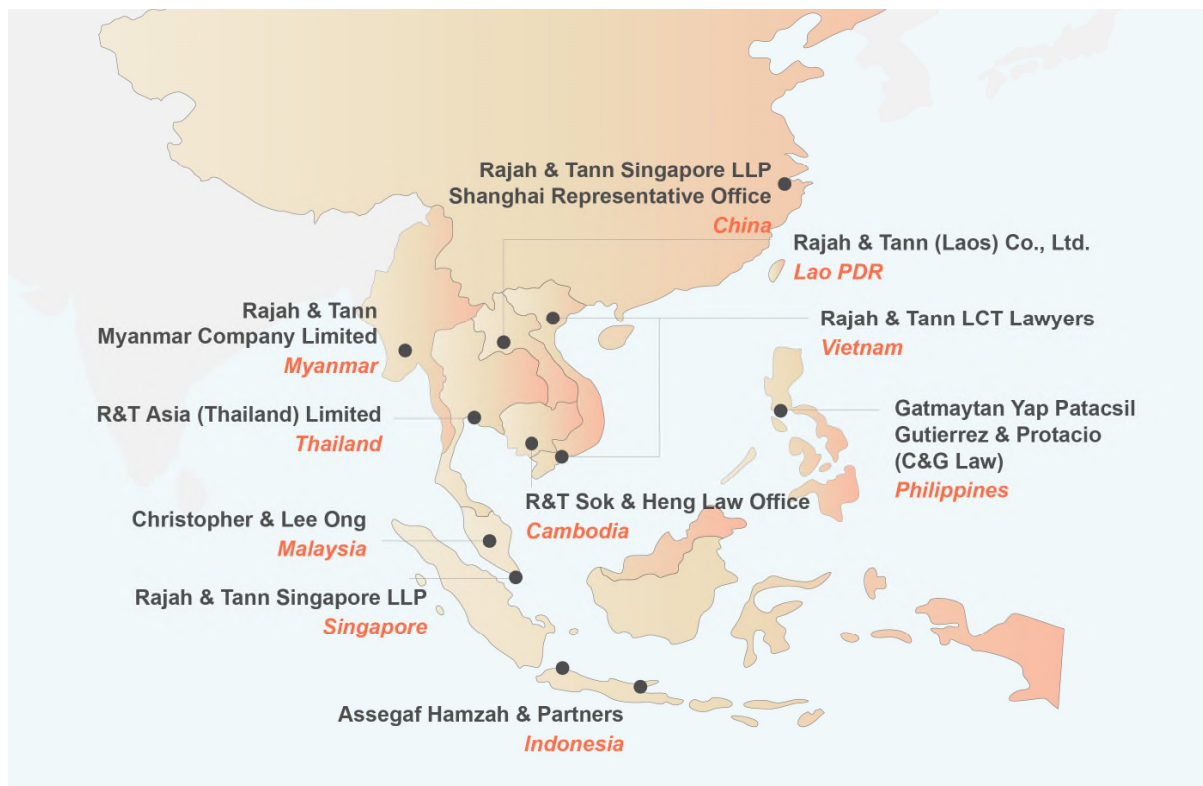
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