

Exchange Controls

The Bank of Thailand administers a system of exchange controls on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, but in practice, few restrictions are imposed. Authorized banks may approve most payments for imports and other current payments requiring foreign exchange, upon submission of necessary documents. The approval of the Bank of Thailand is, however, required for advance payments exceeding US \$1 400, for opening letters of credit with an expiration date over nine months, and for revolving letters of credit.

Transportation and Energy

Thai law requires that certain imports be carried by Thai vessels or else be subject to a levy of twice the applicable freight. The law applies to goods purchased by Thai state enterprises and shipped or transshipped from ports served by authorized Thai vessels. For more information before Canadian goods are shipped to Thailand, contact the Commercial Division of the Canadian embassy in Bangkok.

Shipping services from Canada include the following:

1. *East Asiatic Company* schedules four sailings a month from Vancouver to Bangkok. The line is represented in Canada by Johnson, Walton Steamships Limited in Vancouver, and by Robert Reford Inc. in Toronto and Montreal.
2. *Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL)* schedules four sailings a month from Vancouver and Halifax. The line is represented by the Manchester Liner Services in Vancouver.
3. *American President Lines (APL)* schedules eight sailings a month from Montreal and Toronto.
4. *Sealand Service Inc.* schedules four sailings a month from Vancouver. The line is represented by Sealand Shipping Service Ltd. in Vancouver.
5. *Maersk Line* schedules four sailings a month from Vancouver, Montreal, and Toronto. The line is represented by Maersk in Vancouver.
6. *Neptune Orient Line Ltd.* schedules three sailings a month from Vancouver and Saint John.

The Bangkok-Thon Buri metropolitan area has a well-developed infrastructure. Efforts are under way to develop infrastructural facilities in other areas of the