



One of our Club Members provided the following information for his fellow Expats on how to go about getting a refund on the 15% tax withheld from interest payments by Thai banks on Fixed Deposit Accounts.

OBTAINING A TAX REFUND FROM FIXED DEPOSIT BANK ACCOUNTS

A refund of the tax paid on the interest earned on fixed deposit bank accounts can be reclaimed. The tax paid is clearly shown alongside the interest actually credited. Please note that refunds cannot be made from savings accounts.

The following guidelines are the result my recent experiences in obtaining refunds. You certainly do not need the assistance of an accountant or a Thai speaker. The tax office personnel will also provide you with any assistance you may need.

Refunds can be claimed up to three years in arrears. Tax paid during a year can only be refunded when the year has ended. For example, if the tax was paid in September you would have to wait until January the following year to make your claim.

The Chonburi Area Revenue Office (Tax Office) is the oval shaped building a few meters from Tony's Gym in Jomtien. The Office is open Monday to Friday. 08.30 to 16.30.

Step 1

If you have not made a claim before you will need to obtain a Tax Number. This will be printed on a card which the Tax Office will provide. You will need a copy of the name (photo) page of your passport. Once you have obtained this card it is valid indefinitely and you should keep it securely for future claims. There is no charge for this.

Step 2

Go to your bank where the account is held taking the bank books showing the interest paid along with you plus your passport. Ask them for a Certificate (letter) confirming the tax paid for reclaim purposes.

If you have a number of books it might be preferable to return the next day to pick up the books and the Certificates, one for each account. There is normally no charge for this.

Step 3

You then need to be able to confirm your current address. This will also be the address to where your refund cheque will be sent. This can be done in one of two ways:

If you have a blue Thai House Book this is the easiest way. Photocopy the page which shows your address and include it with your other tax claim documents

If you do not have a House Book you will need a Residence Letter confirming your address from the Immigration Office. Complete the Residence Letter form, attaching two photos. You will need to provide signed photocopies of:

Passport name page

Page with the date of arrival

Arrival Card

Two original documents showing your address (e.g. utility bills)

The fee for this service is 200 baht.

Step 4

Before attending the Tax Office you will need the following photocopies:

Copy of card showing your Tax Number (as above)

Copy of Residence Letter / Thai House Book (as above)

Copy of name (photo) page of your passport for each year of your claim(s).

Copy of the front page of the bank book(s).

Copy of the bank book page(s) showing the interest paid.

You should then go to the Tax Office, ground floor with the photocopies shown above plus the Bank Certificates and your Tax Number card.

Explain that you are there to make a Tax Claim. You will find that the staff there are helpful.

They will fill in the relevant forms for you and ask you to sign where needed. You will be directed to different staff members who perform different tasks such as entering your details into the computer.

Once your claim has been accepted you will be given copies of the Bank Certificates as receipts and as a means of checking the amount of your refund when it arrives.

You can expect to receive a refund cheque two to six weeks from your application.

Hints & Tips

Be patient and allow sufficient time for your application. The Tax Office does not provide a photocopying service. If you are asked for additional photocopies this will mean leaving the Tax Office to obtain them and returning.

Remember you are entering a Government building and you should wear reasonable clothing – no beachwear.

Take all original items (Bank Books, Passport, House Book etc.) with you.

The processing of the Tax Refund is carried out on the upper floors of the Tax Office. They will contact you if they have further queries and you can meet them there if necessary.