



National Health Commission Office  
Thailand

# Thailand's Rules and Procedures for the Health Impact Assessment of Public Policies







# Content

<b>Declaration of the National Health Commission</b>	<b>6</b>
Subject: Rules and Procedures for the Health Impact Assessment of Public Policies 2009	
<b>Section 1 Definitions and Principles</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Section 2 Public Policies, Programs or Projects That Must and Should Conduct Health Impact Assessments</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Section 3 Process and Procedure of Health Impact Assessment</b>	<b>14</b>
<i><b>Part I</b> The Process and Procedure of Health Impact Assessment The Case of a Project or Activity which may Seriously Affect the Quality of the Environment, Natural Resources and Health According to Section 67 of the Thai Constitution 2007</i>	<b>15</b>
<i><b>Part II</b> The Process and Procedure of Health Impact Assessment In the Case of the Development of a Public Policy and Development Planning Activity</i>	<b>16</b>
<i><b>Part III</b> The Process and Procedure of Health Impact Assessment In the Case of a Request by an Individual or a Group of People in Accordance With Their Right as Accorded by Section 11 of the National Health Act 2007</i>	<b>20</b>
<i><b>Part IV</b> The Process and Procedure of Health Impact Assessment as a Joint Learning Process of Society</i>	<b>21</b>
<i><b>Part V</b> The Definition of the Scope and Guidelines of Health Impact Assessment by the Public</i>	<b>22</b>
<i><b>Part VI</b> The Review of the Draft Report of the Health Impact Analysis and Study by the Public</i>	<b>23</b>
<i><b>Part VII</b> The Development of Health Impact Monitoring Plan and Report to the Public</i>	<b>24</b>
<b>Section 4 The Development of the Health Impact Assessment System</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Appendix to the Declaration of the National Health Commission Subject: Rules and Procedures for the Health Impact Assessment of Public Policies 2009</b>	<b>30</b>
<i>The Factors Which May Affect Health</i>	



synergy to well being

## Declaration of the National Health Commission

Subject: Rules and Procedures for the Health  
Impact Assessment of Public Policies 2009

The Thai Constitution 2007, Section 67 Paragraph 2, states that any project or activity which may seriously affect the quality of the environment, natural resources or health shall not be permitted, unless its impacts on the quality of the environment and on the health of the people in affected communities has been studied and evaluated, and consultation with the public and interested parties has been organized. The constitution further states that the opinion of an independent organization, consisting of representatives from private environmental and health organizations and from higher education institutions providing studies in the field of environment, natural resources or health, must have been obtained prior to the commencement of such a project or activity. The National Health Act 2007 guarantees certain rights and duties regarding health as illustrated in Section 5, that a person shall enjoy the right to live in a healthy environment and environmental conditions and shall have the duty to cooperate with State agencies in generating the said environment and environmental

conditions. Section 11 of the Act states that an individual, or a group of people, has the right to request, and to participate in, the assessment of health impacts resulting from public policy, as well as having the right to acquire information, explanation and underlying reasons from state agencies prior to granting permission for the commencement of a programme or activity which may affect his or her health or the health of a community. He/she shall also have the right to express his or her opinion on said matter. Section 25, Paragraph 1 (5) indicates that the National Health Commission shall have the power and the duty to prescribe rules and procedure on monitoring and evaluation in respect of both the National Health System, and the impacts on health resulting from public policies, both at the level of policy making and of implementation.

Thereinafter, in order to make sure that Health Impact Assessments are conducted in accordance with the purposes and objectives of the said Act and to provide guidelines for agencies and all sectors of society to follow, in line with their given authorities and duties, in accordance with Section 25, Paragraph 1(5) of the National Health Act 2007, the National Health Commission therefore prescribes rules and procedures on monitoring and evaluation in respect of the National Health System and the impacts on health resulting from public policies as the following;

# Section 1

## Definitions and Principles

### Item 1

#### Definitions

**Health Impact Assessment** means “a joint learning process of society to analyze and anticipate both positive and negative impacts on the health of the people that may result from one of, or a combination of, policies, programs or projects when implemented at the same time, or in the same area, by applying various tools and appropriate participatory processes in order to support the decision making that will benefit the health of the people, in both the short and the long term”

**Public policy** means “directions or guidelines that society at large agree with or believe should be undertaken including the declared policies provided by the government”

**Health Impact Assessment Mechanism and System Development Committee** means “the committee that is appointed by the National Health Commission to conduct its duties to promote, support and develop systems, mechanisms, rules and procedures of health impact assessment, to implement such rules and procedures once developed and to implement any other related tasks in



compliance with the aims and purposes of the National Health Act 2007 and of the Thai Constitution 2007”

**Committee of Experts** means “the committee that is appointed by the National Environment Committee to conduct its duty to consider the Environmental Impact Assessment Analysis Report”

**Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee** means “the committee that is appointed by the entity responsible for the public policy, program/project, the licensing entity or the National Health Commission Office to conduct its duty to oversee a health impact assessment to ensure its compliance to the Declaration of the National Health Commission, Subject: Rules and procedures for the Health Impact Assessment of Public Policies, 2009”

**National Health Commission Office** means “the office established according to Section 26 of the National Health Act, 2007”.

## Item 2

In order to be in compliance with the aims and purposes of the National Health Act 2007, Chapter I: Rights and Duties in Respect of Health, health impact assessments shall be conducted according to the following principles;

(1) The principle of democracy. Health impact assessments shall guarantee and promote the rights of the people in participating in the development of public policies that effect their health and way of life.

(2) The principle of justice. Health impact assessments shall make an effort to reduce inequity and injustice in respect of health by studying and analyzing the impacts that may occur in each community and population group.

(3) The principle of appropriate evidence application. Health impact assessments shall identify and use the best relevant evidence and information by applying visible data and rationales including qualitative and quantitative evidence derived using various methods and disciplines.

(4) The principle of appropriate practicality. Health impact assessments shall be designed to fit with the available timeline and resources and the recommendations from health impact assessments shall aim to motivate resource mobilization and social participation within the context of practicality and feasibility.

(5) The principle of cooperation. Health impact assessments shall promote cooperation among different entities and sectors of society in order to enable the development of public policy for health.

(6) The principle of the holistic state. Health impact assessments shall consider, in a holistic manner, the overall picture of social and environmental determinants of health which may affect the health of people and the community.

(7) The principle of sustainability. Health impact assessments shall emphasize sustainable development which is the heart of a healthy society and shall emphasize preventive approaches to prevent any possible negative impacts on the health of the people.

## Section 2

### Public Policies, Programs or Projects That Must and Should Conduct Health Impact Assessments

#### Item 3

Since health impact assessment is a joint learning process of society to support the decision-making that will benefit the health of the people in both the short term and the long term, each sector of society is therefore entitled to widely apply health impact assessment to policies, programs or projects from local level to national and international levels.

#### Item 4

Programs and projects which require a health impact assessment to be conducted are those programs and projects that are of the size and types specified by the Declaration of the Projects and Activities Which May Seriously Affect the Quality of the Environment, Natural Resources and Health, according to Section 67 of the Thai Constitution 2007.

## Item 5

Public policies and development planning activities that may affect the health of people in the future and require that a health impact assessment be conducted to support decision making and to prevent negative impacts to the health of the people are the following;

- (1) The development and revision of urban zoning which may lead to any project or activity that may cause serious health impacts in the future.
- (2) The development of a regional plan (e.g. Regional strategic development plan)
- (3) The development of a transportation network
- (4) The development of a power development plan
- (5) The development of a mining development strategy/plan
- (6) The development of a policy and/or a plan for the cultivation of Genetically Modified Organisms
- (7) The development of a policy and/or a plan for large scale farming
- (8) The development of a policy and/or a plan regarding hazardous materials, waste, hazardous waste and radioactive substances.
- (9) The development of a free trade agreement or international agreement according to Section 190 of the Thai Constitution 2007.
- (10) The plan to implement any project or activity in an area that has conservation value, such as water source areas, first class upstream watershed areas and wetland areas of national and international significance.

## Item 6

If people have any concerns that a policy/program/project under any policy may affect their life and that of the public, apart from the programs/projects/activities listed in the above Item 5, the people have the right to request a health impact assessment in accordance with section 11 of the National Health Act 2007 via the channel of the Health Impact Assessment System and Mechanism Development Committee.

## Item 7

In order to enable regular correction, and update, of the lists of public policies and development planning activities which make up Item 5, the National Health Commission appoints the Health Impact Assessment System and Mechanism Development Committee to conduct a review and revision of the said list at least once per year. Each time the list is reviewed and revised, a process to collect comments and suggestions from related entities and the public must be conducted across no fewer than three channels. A public forum must be organized with an announcement made at least one month in advance. Supporting documents must be disclosed and made available at least fifteen days before the forum.

## Section 3

### Process and Procedure of Health Impact Assessment

#### Item 8

The process and procedure of health impact assessment according to these Rules and Procedures for Health Impact Assessment is divided into four cases:

(1) A project or activity which may seriously affect the quality of the environment, natural resources and health according to Section 67 of the Thai Constitution 2007

(2) A public policy and development planning activity which requires a health impact assessment with the responsible entity or project leader as the initiating party.

(3) A public policy, program, project or activity that requires a health impact assessment be conducted because it is requested by an individual and a group of people, according to their right as accorded by Section 11 of the National Health Act 2007

(4) Any health impact assessment conducted as a joint learning process by society at local or community level to support the decision-making that benefits the health of the people but is not included in the three cases above.

## Part I

# The Process and Procedure of Health Impact Assessment The Case of a Project or Activity which may Seriously Affect the Quality of the Environment, Natural Resources and Health According to Section 67 of the Thai Constitution 2007

## Item 9

Health impact assessments conducted in the case of projects or activities which may seriously affect the quality of the environment, natural resources and health, according to Section 67 of the Thai Constitution 2007, shall be conducted in accordance with the Guidelines on Health Impact Assessment in Environmental Impact Analysis Report of Thailand (Revised Issue), September 2009, developed by the Office of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment which may be revised in the future. However, it will also be necessary to abide by the following processes as well;

(1) The entity responsible for the project or activity or the licensing entity shall organize a Health Impact Assessment Public Scoping. This will allow the public, stakeholders and various sectors to present their concerns and participate in forming the guidelines of the Health Impact Assessment which will ensure that the Health Impact Assessment is well rounded and comprehensive. The process of organizing the public hearing shall follow that set forth in Part V. The Health Impact Assessment's scope and guidelines shall be submitted for acknowledgement to the Committee of Experts for consideration of the Environmental Impact Analysis Report.

(2) In the case of health impact assessments which are a part of environmental impact analysis reports, there must be a study that at least covers the factors that may affect health as indicated in appendix 1

(3) Following the process mentioned in Part VI the responsible entity of the project or activity, or the licensing entity, shall organize a public review forum for the study and analysis of the Draft Health Impact Assessment. The summary report of comments, from the people, stakeholders and the public, as well as comments and clarifications shall be submitted to the Committee of Experts for Consideration of the Environmental Impact Analysis Report to consider for further action.

## Part II

### The Process and Procedure of Health Impact Assessment In the Case of the Development of a Public Policy and Development Planning Activity

#### Item 10

In the case of the development of a public policy and development planning activity the following processes shall be conducted;

(1) When the entity responsible for the development of a public policy, program or project/activity, or the licensing entity, or the entity responsible for the development planning activity which may affect the health of the community, finds that a health impact assessment should be conducted, the National Health Commission Office should be informed and presented with the preliminary



information on the development of said public policy, program or project/activity.

(2) The entity, identified in Item 10(1), shall coordinate with those related to the public policy, program or project/activity especially the community and the people that may be affected by said public policy, program or project/activity to nominate a Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee which is accepted by all relevant parties;

(2.1) The Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee for each public policy, program or project/activity shall consist of no fewer than five persons and no more than nine persons. At least one third of the committee must be representatives from the people or the community that may experience negative health impacts.

(2.2) Individuals nominated to be members of a Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee must not be consultants, personnel or employees of said entity and must not have any personal interest in the public policy, program or project/activity for which the health impact assessment will be undertaken.

(2.3) The entity, identified in Item 10(1), shall announce the lists of those nominated to be members of the Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee to allow all relevant entities and the public to raise any objections. Clear reasons supporting any objections must be provided within fifteen days.

(2.4) If no objections are raised, the proposed Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee may officially perform its duty.

(2.5) If an objection is raised, the entity, identified in Item 10(1), should provide clarification to the person raising the objection, or propose a new list, within fifteen days,

replacing those individuals to whom there were objections. This list should be submitted to the National Health Commission Office for additional comments within fifteen days before the entity, identified in Item 10(1), proceed to officially appoint the Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee.

(3) The Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee, using resources provided by the entity identified in Item 10(1), shall organize a Health Impact Assessment Public Scoping Forum. The process of the public scoping shall follow the process set forth in Part V. The Health Impact Assessment scope and direction shall be reported to the National Health Commission Office for acknowledgement.

(4) The entity identified in Item 10(1) shall recruit the persons to conduct the analysis of health impacts, and to conduct the Health Impact Assessment in each aspect, in accordance with the Health Impact Assessment Scope and Direction designated by the Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee as set forth in Item 10(3). The analytical study shall be conducted, in close coordination with the Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee (e.g. submission of a progress report every three months) and the Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee shall provide comments on the study as appropriate and may organize a consulting forum with relevant entities and the public as appropriate until the draft report of the Health Impact Study and Analysis is completed.

(5) If an affected party, or a member of the public, believes that there should be another study, either on a specific issue or on all issues, conducted in parallel with an existing health impact analysis, which is already being conducted in accordance with one of the items set out in Item 10(3), in order to ensure the completeness of the information for the health impact assessment and the decision making of said project/activity, the aforementioned party or member of the public may notify the Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee and the National Health Commission Office, for

consideration of a parallel study, as appropriate, on a case by case basis.

(6) When the Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee considers that the draft Health Impact Study and Analysis is complete, the Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee shall inform the National Health Commission Office. The Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee shall further organize a public forum to review the draft Health Impact Study and Analysis with the support of the entity identified in Item 10 (1), in accordance with the forum organization procedure prescribed in Part VI. The summary report of the comments of the relevant entities and the public, together with the comments and clarifications of the Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee, shall then be submitted to the National Health Commission Office for acknowledgement.

(7) The Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee shall develop a complete Health Impact Study and Analysis and submit this report to the National Health Commission Office. The National Health Commission Office shall provide comments to be taken into consideration by the licensing entity or the development planning entity or the authorized personnel according to the rights and duties indicated in Section 27(2) of the National Health Act 2007. The National Health Commission Office shall provide the said comments within thirty days of the date of receiving the complete report, from the Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee, to allow the entity identified in 10(1) to consider it further.

(8) If the entity identified in Item 10(1) decides to implement the policy and or development planning activity which may affect the health of the community, the entity, identified in Item 10(1), must develop a Health Impact Prevention and Response Plan and a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the project/activity which may seriously affect the health of the people. These plans must be submitted to the National Health Commission Office for acknowledgement, prior to implementation, and said entity shall present the actual

Health Impact Monitoring and Evaluation Report according to the rules prescribed in Part VII.

### Part III

## The Process and Procedure of Health Impact Assessment In the Case of a Request by an Individual or a Group of People in Accordance With Their Right as Accorded by Section 11 of the National Health Act 2007

### Item 11

In the case of an individual or a group of people requesting a health impact assessment, in accordance with their right as granted by Section 11 of the National Health Act 2007, the following process shall be conducted;

(1) The Health Impact System and Mechanism Development Committee, with the National Health Commission Office acting as its secretariat, shall consider the rationale, necessity and appropriateness of implementing a health impact assessment and shall inform the person(s) exercising their right of the result of their consideration, with supporting reasons, within thirty days.

(2) If a health impact assessment is considered to be appropriate, the National Health Commission Office shall coordinate with the person(s) exercising their right, and the entity responsible for the policy, program, or project/activity and other relevant agencies to work together to establish a Health Impact Assessment Direction Monitoring Committee and may also organize a health assembly.

(3) In the case of the assignment of a public policy and development planning activity mentioned in part II, the National Health Commission Office shall coordinate with the entity responsible for the policy, program or project/activity in order to begin the process and procedure of the health impact assessment.

(4) When the Health Impact Assessment is completed, the Health Impact System and Mechanism Development Committee shall consider the report for presentation to the National Health Commission, as appropriate, and may appoint a committee/sub-committee/working group to monitor the health impacts that may result from said policy, program or project/activity. The report may be considered for presentation to the National Health Assembly.

## Part IV

### The Process and Procedure of Health Impact Assessment as a Joint Learning Process of Society

#### Item 12

In the event that any people, community, local administrative organization, non-government organization or academic institute wishes to apply a health impact assessment as a tool to create a joint learning process in society, in order to support the decision making that benefits the good health of the people, and said health impact assessment does not meet any of the conditions set forth in Section 67 of the Thai Constitution 2007, the people, community, local administrative organization, non-government organization or academic institute may apply the health impact assessment in keeping with the joint learning process based on the Health Impact Assessment Principles set forth in Section 1.

## Item 13

The people, community, local administrative organization, non-government organization or academic institute wishing to proceed in accordance with Item 12 above should inform the National Health Commission Office both prior and post implementation to allow the National Health Commission Office to participate in providing comments and support as appropriate and to enable the sharing of knowledge and experience which may lead to the development of the health impact assessment system of Thailand in the long run.

### Part V

## The Definition of the Scope and Guidelines of Health Impact Assessment by the Public

## Item 14

The objective of the public defining the scope and guidelines of health impact assessment (Public Scoping) is to provide an opportunity for the people, stakeholders and various sectors to participate in proposing issues and guidelines for health impact assessment in order to enable comprehensive well-rounded health impact assessment in line with the following implementation process;

(1) The National Health Commission Office and the public must be informed at least one month in advance, via no fewer than three public communication channels, to allow interested parties/public to prepare for participation.

(2) The policy, program or project/activity documents shall be disclosed, describing the background, necessity, source of funding, procedure and implementation guidelines, and presenting the

preliminary information on health impact factors according to Appendix 1, and the draft proposal on the scope and guidelines of the Health Impact Assessment, for the related entities and the public to consider via at least three public communication channels at least fifteen days prior to the forum organization date.

(3) The Public Scoping shall provide the opportunity for the people, stakeholders and various sectors to comment for at least two hours and no less than half of the time of the overall Public Scoping.

(4) After the Public Scoping, at least two channels must be made available to receive further comments for at least fifteen consecutive days.

(5) The report of comments from the people, stakeholders and various sectors, together with clarifications and Health Impact Assessment Terms of Reference shall be developed and submitted to the National Health Commission Office for acknowledgement and public dissemination.

## Part VI

### The Review of the Draft Report of the Health Impact Analysis and Study by the Public

#### Item 15

The review of the draft report of the Health Impact Study and Analysis by the public (Public Review) is a crucial procedure, because it is a process where the affected persons and the public get to refine the accuracy and completeness of the information and the conclusions of the Health Impact Assessment Report. Public Reviews must abide by the following rules;

(1) The National Health Commission Office and the public must be informed at least one month in advance via no fewer than three public communication channels.

(2) The complete Draft Health Impact Study and Analysis must be disclosed for the consideration of the relevant entities and the public for no fewer than fifteen days prior to the date of the Public Review, via at least three public communication channels.

(3) The Public Review shall provide the opportunity for the relevant entities and the public to comment for at least two hours and no less than half of the time of the overall Public Review.

(4) After the Public Review, at least two channels shall be available to receive further comments for at least fifteen consecutive days.

(5) The report of comments from the relevant entities and the public together with clarifications and comments from the entity responsible for the project/ licensing entity and relevant agencies shall be developed and submitted to the National Health Commission Office for acknowledgement and public dissemination.

## Part VII

### The Development of Health Impact Monitoring Plan and Report to the Public

#### Item 16

Since health impacts are the outcome of the complex relationships among many health affecting factors including economic factors, social factors and environmental factors, which in many cases may not be completely included in health impact assessments, together with the fact that the health affecting policy or project/activity may be implemented differently from health impact assessments



previously conducted, the entity responsible for the project, identified in Item 10(1), shall, therefore, develop a Health Impact Prevention and Response Implementation Plan, a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, and a Monitoring and Evaluation Report, entailing the following details;

(1) The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan must consist of the following minimum required elements;

(1.1) A plan for data collection and the development of a Health Impact and Determinants of Health Monitoring Report every year continuously through-out the project implementation period

(1.2) A Health Impact Monitoring and Evaluation Supervision Committee shall be established. The committee shall be accepted by all relevant agencies. Committee members must not be consultants, personnel or employees of said body and must not have any personal interest in the project/activity. Also, at least one third of the committee members must be nominated by the community or the people that may receive negative health impacts in order to monitor and ensure that negative impacts on the health of the people do not occur.

(1.3) The necessary resources shall be allocated for the implementation of the Data Collection Plan and the development of the Health Impact and Determinants of Health Monitoring and Evaluation Report and for supporting the establishment of the Health Impact Monitoring and Evaluation Supervision Committee.

(2) At the beginning of the implementation, the body under Item 10(1) shall develop the Health Impacts and Determinants of Health Monitoring Report enclosed with the comments of the Health Impact Monitoring and Evaluation Supervision Committee and submit them to the National Health Commission Office for acknowledgement and additional comments every year, throughout the project implementation period.

(3) In order to ensure the efficiency of the monitoring, and protection, of the public's health the National Health Commission Office shall exercise its duty in commenting on the Health Impact and Determinants of Health Monitoring Report. The National Health Commission Office may also disseminate the report, as well as the comments, to the relevant agencies and the public in accordance with its duties, and with the authority it is afforded by Section 17(2) and Section 10 of the National Health Act 2007. The National Health Commission Office shall provide comments within forty-five days from the date of receiving the report.

(4) In the event that the people, community or the local administration organization needs to develop a health impact monitoring system and mechanism by the implementation of the people/community/local administration organization, the people/community/local administration organization may propose a framework and guidelines for the Health Impact Monitoring System and Mechanism Development for the National Health Commission Office, the entity identified in Item 10(1) and the local administrative organization to consider providing the necessary resources and budget support to enable implementation as appropriate.

(5) In the event that it is necessary to conduct research to prepare the Health Impact Prevention and Response to a Specific Issue, the National Health Commission Office may appoint a committee/sub-committee/working group to monitor the possible health impacts of the implementation of the said public policy. At least one third of the committee/sub-committee/working group must be representatives of the people or community that are/may be affected. Members of the committee/sub-committee/working group must not have any personal interest related to the implementation of the policy, program/project.

## Section 4

### The Development of the Health Impact Assessment System

#### Item 17

Since all the policies, programs, development activities and the joint learning processes of society, as well as the public policy decision making processes, are dynamic in nature, the continuous and regular revision and improvement of the rules and procedures for the health impact assessment of public policies is therefore, essential. Thus, the Health Impact Assessment System and Mechanism Development Committee shall conduct the review and revision of the Rules and Procedures for the Health Impact Assessment of Public Policies at least once a year and shall report to the National Health Commission for consideration for further improvement.

## Item 18

Since the capacity of the sectors involved in health impact assessment is considered crucial to the achievement of the objectives of health impact assessment, according to the aims and purposes of the National Health Act 2007, the Health Impact Assessment System and Mechanism Development Committee shall coordinate with various sectors and relevant agencies especially the Department of Health and the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of National Resources and Environment and university institutes in developing;

(1) Proper two year and five year human resource capacity development plans for each target group in the people sector, academic sector, private sector, consultant companies and the government sector.

(2) A five year research and development plan to establish the database system and to create a body of knowledge for health impact assessment.

(3) A public communication plan to motivate the people sector, academic sector, private sector and government sector to be informed and aware of their rights and duties in preventing and responding to health impacts as well as the guidelines on properly and efficiently applying these Rules and Procedures for Health Impact Assessment.

(4) The investment guidelines to support the implementation of Items 18(1) to 18(3) above must be completed within six months from the date of the issuance of these Rules and procedures for Health Impact Assessment.

## Item 19

In the event that there are any suggestions or complaints regarding health impact assessment according to these Rules and Procedures for Health Impact Assessment, the Health Impact Assessment System and Mechanism Development Committee shall conduct a study to reveal the facts, problems and obstacles or establish a sub-committee/working group to reveal the facts, problems and obstacles and present their recommendations to the National Health Commission as appropriate.

Issued 8 November 2009

Abhisit Vejjajiva  
Chairperson, the National Health Commission  
Prime Minister

---

# Appendix

## The Factors Which May Affect Health

In conducting a health impact assessment, it is necessary to consider the environmental and socio-cultural factors which may affect the health of the community. Therefore, in the process of defining the scope and terms of reference of a health impact assessment and a health impact assessment which is part of an environment impact analysis report, the implementer must analyze and provide information regarding some significant issues such as the following;

1. The change of condition of the use of natural resources, including land resources, water resources, fishery resources, forestry resources, bio-diversity, mineral resources and other natural resources including the ecosystem.
2. The manufacturing, transportation and storage of hazardous materials. The types, quantity and the processing methods of all hazardous materials must be reported.
3. The generation and emission of waste and health threats from construction, from production lines and from any other processes including garbage, waste, hazardous waste, contaminated water, infectious waste, heat, air pollution, dust, light, sound, odor, vibration and radioactive substances.

4. The exposure to pollution and other threats including all channels of physical contact such as inhalation, oral intake and topical exposure and the exposure of the personnel working in the project and the exposure of the people living around the project.

5. The changes to and impacts on occupations, employment and working conditions in the local area both in positive and negative ways such as occupational risks and accidents, changes to the ecological system, resources and goods and produce supply chain which are a fundamental living necessity of a certain group of people.

6. The changes to and impacts on the relationship among the people and the community including the relationships inside and outside of a community especially labor and population mobility, the increase and decrease of public space and the conflict that may arise due to the implementation of a project/activity.

7. The changes to an area that is culturally significant and contains cultural heritage such as religious infrastructure, places people worship as sacred or places used in local ritual practice, areas of historical significance and important archeological sites.

8. The impacts that are specific to, and exceptionally grave, upon a certain group of people especially vulnerable population such as handicapped people, single parents and ethnic minority groups.

9. Resources and the readiness of the public health sector in the aspects of prevention, treatment, and health restoration and rehabilitation for the people in relation to the project/activity including the readiness of health status information in the area prior to implementation, the management of the impact monitoring







synergy to well being

Health Impact Assessment Coordinating Unit (HIA Co-Unit)

National Health Commission Office

Floor 2, 88/31 Tiwanon 14 Rd., Mueang District, Nonthaburi 11000 Thailand

Tel. +66-2590-2478 Fax. +66-2590-2311 E-mail: [contact\\_hia@nationalhealth.or.th](mailto:contact_hia@nationalhealth.or.th)

[www.thia.in.th](http://www.thia.in.th) | [www.nationalhealth.or.th](http://www.nationalhealth.or.th)