

Press Release No. 17/2020

Loan Repayment Measures to Assist Borrowers Affected by COVID-19

Mr. Veerathai Santiprabhob, Governor of the Bank of Thailand (BOT), informed that, after the BOT launched measures to help borrowers in February 28, 2020, financial institutions have made progress in assisting borrowers which have increased from 30,000 borrowers with outstanding debt of 234,000 million baht as of 18 March 2020 to 156,000 borrowers with outstanding debt of 310,000 million baht as of 23 March 2020.

The BOT has continuously monitored the COVID-19 pandemic situation, and has coordinated and discussed with commercial banks, Specialized Financial Institutions (SFIs), and other financial services providers, via 9 associations and clubs*. In light of the discussion, all parties agreed that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has widened to people and businesses in all sectors, and that there is a need to urgently cooperate for Thailand to be able to overcome this difficult time. Therefore, it has been agreed to adopt minimum measures to assist borrowers having debts in credit cards, personal loans, hire purchase, leasing, housing loans, and SMEs loans, whose loans are not past due for longer than 90 days (non-NPL). The measures will become effective from the debt repayment period of 1 April 2020 onwards, for which details are summarized as follows:

Loan repayment measures to assist borrowers who have potential to repay their loans and whose loans have not turned into NPLs

Credit types	Minimum measures to assist debtors
1. Credit card and revolving loan	Lowering the minimum repayment from 10% to 5% (in
	2020 and 2021), 8% (in 2022), and back to 10% (in 2023).
	In addition, borrowers can convert their credit card debts
	to long-term loans with lower interest rates.
2. Personal loan with installment	- Commercial banks and SFIs: moratorium on repayment
payments and car title loan	of principal and interest for 3 months
	- Other financial services providers: moratorium on
	repayment of principal and interest for 3 months; or
	reduction in repayment of loan for at least 30% of
	installment payments for 6 months
3. Hire purchase	Financial Services providers either choose
(1) Motorcycles: loan amount not	- Moratorium on repayment of principal and interest for 3
exceeding 35,000 baht.	months; <u>or</u>
(2) Every type of automobiles: loan	- Moratorium on repayment of principal for 6 months
amount not exceeding 250,000 baht.	
4. Leasing with outstanding loan not	
exceeding 3 million baht.	

Credit types	Minimum measures to assist debtors
5. Housing loan with loan amount not	- Moratorium on repayment of principal for 3 months with
exceeding 3 million baht.	a reduction of interest that is suitable for customers on
6. SMEs loans, Microfinance, and Nano	a case-by-case basis
finance with loan amount not exceeding	
20 million baht.	

Note: Borrowers with several types of loans can get all types of assistance as specified in the conditions.

The mentioned measures are merely the minimum measures that must be met, each financial service provider can offer relief packages that are better than the minimum measures for borrowers, both corporates and individuals, in the sectors which are directly impacted from the pandemic situation, such as tourism, hotel, aviation industries, and related businesses. Borrowers can study more information at the website or contact call center of each financial institution.

The borrowers who have been assisted under this scheme will have their credit history recorded as normal borrowers in the National Credit Bureau's database, but the borrowers still have responsibilities to repay their debts as set out in the terms agreed with financial services providers.

For borrowers that can repay their debts under normal terms of repayment, financial services providers may provide privileges or special conditions as deemed appropriate in order to promote good financial discipline among borrowers.

In this regard, financial services providers must communicate extensively with borrowers regarding the minimum measures and additional relief packages for specific borrowers, as well as inform borrowers regarding details of privileges, procedures to get assistance, and responsibilities to repay debts under new terms as set out in the relief measures.

Bank of Thailand 25 March 2020

For further information: Regulatory Policy Department

Tel: 0 2283 6929

E-mail: FPGCreditRiskTeam@bot.or.th

^{*} Including 1. The Thai Bankers' Association 2. The Association of International Banks 3. The Government Financial Institutions Association 4. Thailand Leasing Association 5. Thai Hire-Purchase Association 6. Vehicle Title Loan Trade Association 7. Thai Motorcycle Hire-Purchase Association 8. Credit Card Club – The Thai Bankers' Association 9. Personal Loan Club.