

MOJ to enforce Re-Entry Permit System and Submission of Diagnosis for Re-Entry of Registered Aliens

Re-entry Permit Required to re-enter ROK after June 1, 2020

Long-term foreign stayers in Korea have recently been found to have re-entered the nation being infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and this has raised the need to strengthen the requirements for re-entry into the ROK from high-risk countries for COVID-19 infection.

In response to this situation, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has stepped up the requirements for re-entry into Korea effective from June 1, 2020, by temporarily suspending the re-entry permit exemption and requiring all long-term stayers seeking re-entry into Korea to submit a written diagnosis, in an effort to curb travel from COVID-19 affected regions abroad and prevent inflow of the new disease from overseas.

1. Registered aliens must apply for a Re-Entry Permit before leaving the ROK to maintain the current status of stay.

○ Effective from June 1, 2020, all long-term stayers with Alien Registration who intend to re-enter Korea without a visa after leaving the country, are required to visit immigration offices (including airport and port offices) prior to departure from the ROK and apply for a Re-Entry Permit.

- The Ministry of Justice has exempted long-term stayers with Alien Registration from a Re-Entry Permission since 2010, on condition that they re-enter the nation within one year from

the date of departure from the ROK. (2 years for Permanent Resident (F-5)).

- However, the urgency of the need to prevent new infections and contain community spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has led the Ministry of Justice to suspend the Re-entry Permit Exemption as of June 1, 2020.
- Under this measure, all registered aliens must obtain a Re-Entry Permit in advance of departure to be allowed to re-enter the country after departure, and leaving the Republic of Korea without a Re-Entry Permit will result in cancellation of Alien Registration.

※ Relevant status of stay and period of stay shall be nullified upon cancellation of Alien Registration.

- **Yet, those with Diplomats (A-1), Government Officials (A-2), International Agreement (A-3) or Overseas Korean (F-4) status are not required to apply for a Re-Entry Permit, and are thus allowed to re-enter the ROK as previously done.**

* Diplomats (A-1), Government Officials (A-2), International Agreement (A-3): Re-Entry Permit exempted upon re-entry within one year after departure.

** Overseas Korean (F-4): Re-Entry Permit exempted upon re-entry within the period of stay after departure under Article 10 of "ACT ON THE IMMIGRATION AND LEGAL STATUS OF OVERSEAS KOREANS."

- To apply for a Re-Entry Permit, relevant foreigners need to visit a local immigration office across the nation (including airport and port offices) and submit an application form and a letter of explanation, and pay for the application fee (KRW

30,000).

※ For re-entry application procedure, refer to the attached file.

- The MOJ plans to operate its newly developed online application system at the website of HiKorea (www.hikorea.go.kr) in June this year, which is expected to alleviate inconvenience faced by long term visitors in the nation by allowing them to apply for a Re-entry Permit without making in-person visits to an immigration office.

2. Registered Aliens must submit a diagnosis issued by a medical institution when re-entering the country

- Beginning June 1, 2020, registered aliens seeking re-entry into the ROK after departure are required to undergo a medical examination related to COVID-19, 48 hours prior to the date of departure and present a medical certificate (diagnosis) detailing the results to re-enter the ROK. And those without a written diagnosis will be denied entry into the ROK.
- A diagnosis must be written either in Korean or English and be issued by an authorized local medical institute within 48 hours in advance of the date of departure for the ROK. The document must include the date of examination and the presence or absence of fever, cough, chills, headache, difficulty of breathing, muscle pain and pulmonary symptoms, and must be signed by a medical examiner.

※ A diagnosis does not have to include a COVID-19 test result (Test Negative). However, a medical certificate (diagnosis) listing a COVID-19 negative result shall also be deemed as valid..

- Yet, long-term stayers with Diplomats (A-1), Government Officials (A-2), International Agreement (A-3), or Overseas Korean(F-4) status and foreign investors with a valid 'Isolation Exemption Certificate' issued by a Korean embassy or consular office are exempted, as an exception, from the obligation to submit a written diagnosis and are allowed to re-enter the ROK, minimizing the impact of the measure on the business sector.

○ Failure to present a diagnosis will result in denial of entry into the ROK and air carriers and ship companies will ban those without the required document from boarding any flights or ships bound for Korea. Moreover, immigration officers will conduct inspection once again during immigration clearance to prevent those ineligible from entering the nation.

- Furthermore, forging or falsifying a diagnosis or presenting false documents will result in entry denial, deportation and other disadvantages in matters related to visa issuance.

All the measures stated above will be implemented as of 00:00 a.m. June 1 (Mon.), 2020 and the Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with relevant ministries, will remain committed to carrying out follow-up measures to ensure that these new policies are implemented in a strict and expeditious way.

Going forward, the Ministry of Justice will continue to work closely with the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters (CDSCH) in a bid to stem the spread of COVID-19 into the nation from overseas.

[Attached]

Notice on Suspension of Re-Entry Permit Exemption and Submission of Diagnosis for Re-Entry of Long-term Stayers


1. Suspension of Re-Entry Permit Exemption and Application for Re-Entry Permit

- Beginning June 1, 2020, registered aliens who are seeking re-entry into the ROK after departure are required to obtain a Re-Entry Permit in accordance with Article 30 of the Immigration Act, and leaving the Republic of Korea without a Re-Entry Permit will result in cancellation of Alien Registration.
- Yet, those with Diplomats (A-1), Government Officials (A-2, A-3) or Overseas Korean (F-4) status do not need to apply for a Re-Entry Permit, and are allowed to re-enter the ROK as previously done.
- Re-Entry Permit can be applied for at immigration offices across the nation including at the airports. (Since it may take time to apply for a Re-entry Permit at the airport, please visit the airport earlier than usual on the departure date, to complete the application)

2. Submission of Diagnosis for Re-Entry of Long-term Stayers

- Beginning June 1, 2020, registered aliens (except Diplomats (A-1), Government Officials (A-2, A-3) and Overseas Korean (F-4) status) seeking re-entry into the ROK after departure are required to undergo a medical examination related to COVID-19 within 48 hours prior to the date of departure for the ROK and carry and present a medical certificate (diagnosis) detailing the results to re-enter the ROK.

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- A diagnosis must be written either in Korean or English and be issued by an authorized local medical institute.
 - It must include the date of examination, and the presence or absence of fever, cough, chills, headache, difficulty of breathing, muscle pain and pulmonary symptoms, and must be signed by a medical examiner.
 - It does not have to include a COVID-19 test result (Test Negative).
(A medical certificate (diagnosis) listing a COVID-19 negative result shall also be deemed as valid.)
- Failure to undergo the examination or present a written diagnosis, and forging/falsifying documents or presenting false documents will result in denial of boarding and entry, and other disadvantages.
 - Yet, those with a valid 'Isolation Exemption Certificate' issued by a Korean embassy or consular office are exempted from the obligation to submit a written diagnosis and are allowed to re-enter the ROK as an exception.
-  **For detailed information, please call 1345 (Immigration Contact Center) or visit the official website (www.hikorea.go.kr)**