

Government of India relaxes immigration norms for Japanese nationals

December 16, 2014

In brief

The Government of India has relaxed the existing immigration norms for Japanese nationals coming to work in India on long term employment visa.

In detail

At present a foreign national (FN) coming to work in India on long term employment visa (EV) are required to register with the concerned Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO)/ Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) within 14 days of their first arrival. They and their dependents are required to visit the FRRO/ FRO in person for registration and/ or visa extension.

Further, residential permit was generally granted for 1 year and FN's are required to visit the FRRO/ FRO for extension of the permit every year.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has recently issued instructions relaxing the norms for Japanese nationals whereby:

1. They have been exempted from physically appearing at the FRRO/ FRO for registration/ visa extension. The authorised representative of the concerned company may

represent the Japanese national and complete the FRRO/ FRO related procedures on their behalf.

2. Japanese nationals and their dependents will be granted a residential permit co-terminus with the validity of their respective visas. In other words, where the visa was valid for more than 1 year, Japanese nationals and their dependents will also get a registration valid until the expiry of their visa.
3. The other conditions, such as informing the FRRO/ FRO in case the FN is absent from his/ her registered address for a continuous period of 8 weeks, change of address etc. will continue to remain applicable. However, such communication in the case of Japanese nationals can be also be complied with through the authorised representative of the concerned company.

The takeaway

The relaxation of the norms for the Japanese national is a

welcome move which will save time and effort for Japanese nationals coming to work in India. This will also encourage Japanese companies to depute more and more Japanese nationals to their subsidiaries/ joint ventures.

Let's talk

For a deeper discussion of how this issue might affect your business, please contact:

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