



New regulations regarding re-entry Permits to Korea for long-term visa holders

The Embassy of Switzerland was informed on Friday 22 May by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea that it has decided to temporarily suspend the waiver of Re-Entry Permits for long term visa holder in an effort to cope effectively with the inflow of COVID-19.

(Quote) starting from 1 June 2020, all foreigners, excluding holders of A-1 (Diplomatic), A-2 (Official), A-3 (Treaties) and F-4 (Overseas Koreans) Visas, who reside in Korea with long-term visas, shall apply for a Re-Entry Permit through a local immigration office before leaving Korea if they wish to maintain their status and period of stay. Leaving Korea without a Re-Entry Permit will result in cancellation of their Alien Registration in accordance with Article 37 of the Immigration Act. In this case, the foreigner must obtain a new long-term visa to re-enter Korea.

All foreigners who are granted a Re-Entry Permit and wish to re-enter Korea shall undergo a medical examination not earlier than 48 hours prior to the date of their departure for Korea and present a written diagnosis when requested by a transport operator and an immigration officer. Failure to do so may result in re-entry denial. The diagnosis shall be written in English or Korean, signed by a medical examiner and issued by an authorized medical institution. It shall also include the date of examination and the presence or absence of fever, cough, chills, headache, breathing difficulty, muscle pain, and pulmonary symptoms.

However, foreigners who hold an Isolation Exemption Certificate issued by a Korean embassy or consulate are exempted from medical examination and the obligation to submit a written diagnosis (unquote).

The Embassy is in the process of evaluation how these new rules will apply on Swiss residents in Korea and try to find out how the Korean authorities will handle practically the issuance of re-entry permits.

Please contact a local immigration office for further information.

The Embassy will continue to follow the situation closely and will keep you informed. Thank you very much for following the advice of the local authorities during this challenging time. Stay safe and healthy!

Seoul, 25.05.2020