



VIETNAM'S SPECIAL ENTRY PERMISSIONS DURING COVID-19

While an entry ban on most foreigners to Vietnam remains in effect, the Government has greenlighted the entry of select foreign investors, experts, and highly skilled workers. Since the decision, experts, managers and workers from South Korea, Japan, China and other countries have arrived in Vietnam via special flights and trains for business purposes.

Requirements and procedures for entry approval

To qualify for entry into Vietnam during the pandemic:

As per *Official Dispatch No. 2847/CV-BCD*, issued on May 23

- Foreigners must have a sponsor who can assist them in obtaining the necessary paperwork before applying for a special entry permit on their behalf;
- The procedure for entry permit application includes:
 - » The employer submits a letter to the local provincial people's committee with specific details about the employee job and their travel plans;
 - » The local provincial people's committee is then expected to make a decision and subsequently submit the request to Vietnam's immigration department; and,
 - » If the application is approved, the employer would also need to submit a letter and necessary documents (including confirmed booking and valid e-tickets on flights departing to Vietnam and the local provincial people's committee decision on the approval) to the immigration department.

As per *Official Dispatch No. 3949/CV-BCD*, issued on July 24

- Foreign experts are required to complete the test for SARS-CoV-2 using Real time-PCR technique from 3 to 7 days prior to the date of entry into Vietnam. The test must be done at testing centers approved by their Government or the World Health Organization (WHO); and,
- International health insurance is compulsory, or their sponsor will be required to commit to pay for treatment in the event they are infected with COVID-19.

Notably, Ho Chi Minh City is inclined to prioritize applicants with a valid work permit or legalized copy of university degree and three-year employment certificate when processing entry requests.

Contact us



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14-day mandatory quarantine and additional COVID-19 test after entry

It is important to note that anyone entering Vietnam is subject to a 14-day quarantine at a centralized Government facility or a designated hotel. Testing for COVID-19 is done at least twice during the quarantine period, which may be followed by another 14 days of medical surveillance.

Commercial flights

The entry of foreign workers also depends on whether they are able to find commercial flights from their location to Vietnam. In July, the Vietnamese Government announced plans to reopen select international flights on a bilateral basis to countries within Asia such as China, South Korea, Taiwan, Laos, and Cambodia. However, no official date has been given.

We understand that the Australian Chamber of Commerce (AusCham) has attempted to gauge the level of interest in a charter flight from Australia to Vietnam and assess if it may be able to facilitate people to travel to Vietnam. Readers from Australia may contact AusCham for further information. In addition, we recommend readers to contact Government trade agencies, Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Business Associations for the latest updates on available international travel offers from your location to Vietnam if any.

Our support

With a large team of dedicated lawyers and legal specialists, we have successfully helped our clients obtain entry permits for their foreign experts during this challenging time. Readers can write to us if they need assistance in:

- Advisory on work permit and entry permit application;
- Entry permit for foreign workers application;
- Employee contract review and reassessment; and
- Renewals of work permit and resident permit, or cancellations.

Should you need any support, please do not hesitate to **contact us**.

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