



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**RESOLUTION NO. 131-A**

Series of 2021

August 5, 2021

**WHEREAS**, during the 127th Meeting on July 15, 2021 of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases, the IATF issued a directive for the Small Working Group on Travel to reconvene to finalize the guidelines for the prompt endorsement of foreign workers for the issuance of their visas and/or entry exemption documents;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the said directive, the working group composed of the Department of Justice (DOJ), as lead agency, the Bureau of Immigration (BI), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Board of Investment (BOI), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Health (DOH), and Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) conducted a series of meetings to develop the inter-agency guidelines;

**WHEREAS**, there is an existing inter-agency Joint Memorandum Circular No. 001, Series of 2019 (JMC No. 001, s. 2019) between the DOJ, DFA, DOLE, BI, NICA, Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) which harmonized the policy guidelines governing their issuance of working documents to foreign nationals;

**THEREFORE**, with the foregoing premises considered, the recommendation of the Technical Working Group to implement the following guidelines that will enable essential foreign workers to come to the Philippines under appropriate work visas, is approved, as follows:

**Section 1. Coverage.** These guidelines shall govern the application for visa issuance of foreign nationals who intend to come to the Philippines to engage in (a) long-term employment (more than six months) with a Philippine-based employer, and (b) employment in connection with foreign-funded government projects such as those in transportation and infrastructure.

**Section 2. Procedure for issuance of 9(g) visas.** For foreign nationals covered under Section 1 (a), the Philippine-based employer shall apply for Alien Employment Permit (AEP) or



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Certificate of Exemption/Exclusion (COE), as the case may be, with the Department of Labor and Employment, through its regional offices. The AEP, or the COE, as the case may be, shall be issued within five (5) working days after the completion of the Labor Market Test. For this purpose, the DOLE shall issue the necessary advisory on the checklist of requirements as well as the required fees therefor.

Once the AEP or COE is granted, the Philippine-based employer may already apply for issuance of visa under Section 9(g) of the Philippine Immigration Act, as amended, before the Bureau of Immigration (BI), which shall decide on the application for 9(g) visa issuance within twenty-one (21) working days from date of submission of a complete application. For this purpose, the BI shall issue the necessary advisory on the checklist of requirements as well as the required fees therefor.

The BI shall convey the approved applications to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), through the Office of Consular Affairs, for onward transmittal to Foreign Service Posts (FSPs). The FSP shall issue the 9(g) visa valid for 90 days from date of issuance and with notation "for entry purposes only, subject to BI implementation".

**Section 3. Duties of the Foreign Nationals Issued with 9(g) Visas.** Foreign nationals issued with 9(g) visas under these guidelines may be allowed to enter the Philippines without need of an entry exemption document but without prejudice to the exercise of the mandate of the BI in arrival and departure formalities. Within seven (7) days from release from quarantine or isolation, said foreign nationals shall report to the Bureau of Immigration for registration and re-stamping of the validity of 9(g) visa on their passport. Failure to do so will result to being an improperly documented foreigner subject to deportation.

**Section 4. Procedure for issuance of 47(a)(2) visas.** For foreign nationals covered under Section 1 (b), the Philippine-based employer shall apply for issuance of special non-immigrant visa under Section 47(a)(2) of the Philippine Immigration Act, as amended, with the Department of Justice, through its Legal Staff. The application shall be granted within seven (7) working days from date of submission of a complete application provided that all applications for visa issuance shall be supported by a favorable endorsement from a government agency involved in a foreign-funded project where the services of the foreign national are engaged.

The DOJ shall convey the approved applications to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), through the Office of Consular Affairs, for onward transmittal to Foreign Service Posts (FSPs). The FSP shall issue the 47(a)(2) visa with validity based on the DOJ approval.




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**Section 5. Reporting by Endorsing Government Agency.** Foreign nationals issued with 47(a)(2) visas under these guidelines may be allowed to enter the Philippines without need of an entry exemption document but without prejudice to the exercise of the mandate of the BI in arrival and departure formalities. Within seven (7) days from release from quarantine or isolation of said foreign nationals, the endorsing government agency shall report to the Department of Justice the fact of their arrival for monitoring purposes. For this purpose, the endorsing government agencies shall issue the necessary advisory to the Philippine-based employers engaged in foreign-funded government projects such as those in transportation and infrastructure.

**Section 6. Designation of Focal Persons.** The DOJ and BI shall submit to the DFA the names of their respective focal persons for validation and coordination purposes. In case of any change in the names and details of the focal persons, the DOJ and BI shall promptly notify the DFA.

**Section 7. Acceptance of Digitized Copies of Original Documents.** For purposes of processing the permits or visas under these guidelines, agencies may accept digitized or scanned copies of the original documents, including documents authenticated or Apostillized abroad, subject to submission of the original documents at a later date in accordance with the rules of the concerned agencies herein.

**Section 8. Effectivity.** These guidelines shall take effect on August 16, 2021 and shall remain in force for the duration of the public health emergency, unless sooner revoked.

  
**FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III**  
Secretary, Department of Health  
IATF Chairperson

  
**KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES**  
Secretary, Office of the Cabinet Secretariat  
IATF Co-Chairperson



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**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that:

1. I am presently an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health;
2. I am the Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, (s.2014) and chaired by the Department of Health (DOH);
3. The IATF Secretariat holds office in the DOH Main Office, San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila;
4. I am the custodian of the records of the IATF, including the Minutes of Meetings and Resolutions;
5. In the Regular Meeting of the IATF held on 05 August 2021 via teleconference during which a quorum was present and acted throughout, IATF Resolution No. 131-A was unanimously approved and adopted;
6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Francisco T. Duque III and Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles upon the authority of the IATF Members;
7. The aforesaid resolution has not been altered, modified nor revoked and the same is now in full force and effect;
8. I am executing this Certification for whatever legitimate purpose this may serve.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 5th day of August 2021, Manila.

  
ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE  
*Assistant Secretary of Health*  
*Head Secretariat, IATF*