

## New policy for entertainment sector workers

10 December 2019, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) announced new policy aimed at protecting human rights of foreign workers in entertainment industry (E-6 visa holders). The new measures will be applied from 1 January 2020.

E-6 visa is for foreigners planning to work in music, art, sports, entertainment, advertisement and fashion modeling. Foreign performers working at tourist hotels, entertainment restaurants, amusement parks are also under this visa category.

	Until 31 December 2019	Effective from 1 January 2020
Maximum period of stay per permission	1 year.	6 months.
Reporting ARC holder's status change and ARC extension	Employers or authorized agencies can submit applications on behalf of E-6 visa holders.	Employers or agencies will no longer allowed to report status changes on behalf of E-6 visa holders.  It is now mandatory for all E-6 visa holders to visit their district immigration office, have interview with immigration officers, and submit a written questionnaire about rights violations.
Applicants from countries with high percentage of illegal stay	N/A	Applicants from countries which illegal residential rate is high in South Korea will not allowed to apply for E-6 visa. (More details will be released by MOJ within this month.)

These new measures aimed at exercising closer supervision on the genuineness of employment and stronger protection of human rights of foreign workers in entertainment industry who are said to have been vulnerable to human rights violations, including human trafficking.

So far, many international and local human rights groups have pointed out many problems on human rights of foreign workers working in South Korean entertainment industry. The Ministry of Justice has considered this problem from all angles even including E-6 visa abolition, however, determined to maintain its visa type with new stricter measures to protect near 1,400 companies' entertainment business.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our team:



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