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Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
(Foreigners Division)

Major Dhyanchand National Stadium, India Gate
New Delhi - 110002, dated the 15th June, 2018

To

1. All Indian Missions/ Posts
2. All State Governments/ UT Administrations
3. FRROs- Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Amritsar, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Calicut, Goa, Lucknow and Ahmedabad.

Subject: Amendment to Chapter 2 – “e-Visa” and Chapter 3 – “Visa-on-Arrival” of the Visa Manual

Sir,

Please refer to Chapter 2 – “e-Visa” and Chapter 3 – “Visa-on-Arrival” of the Revised Visa Manual .

2. Introduction of new sub-categories of e-visa i.e. e-Conference Visa & e-Medical Attendant Visa and certain other modifications in the e-visa regime and visa-on-arrival have been under consideration of the Government. It has accordingly been decided, with the approval of the competent authority, to make the following amendments in Chapter 2 – “e-Visa” and Chapter 3 – “Visa-on-Arrival” of the Visa Manual:-

(A) Sub-para 2.1 (i) of Chapter 2 of the Visa Manual pertaining to e-Visa is substituted by the following:-

- (i) (whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sight seeing, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, attending a short term yoga programme, medical treatment including treatment under Indian systems of medicine, business purpose, as attendant to e-Medical visa holder, attending a conference/ seminar/ workshop organized by a Ministry or Department of the Government of India, State Governments or UT Administrations etc. & their subordinate/ attached organizations & PSUs and no other purpose/ activity;”)

- (B) Para 2.2 of Chapter 2 of the Visa Manual pertaining to e-Visa is substituted by the following:-

"2.2 Sub-categories of e-visa

There will be five sub-categories of e-Visa i.e. e-Tourist Visa, e-Business Visa, e-Medical Visa, e-Medical Attendant Visa and e-Conference Visa. Following activities will be permitted under these five sub-categories:-

- (a) e-Tourist Visa : Recreation, sightseeing, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, and attending a short term yoga programme.
- (b) e-Business Visa : All activities permitted under normal Business Visa as per Chapter 9 of this Visa Manual.
- (c) e-Medical Visa : Medical treatment, including treatment under Indian systems of medicine.
- (d) e-Medical Attendant Visa - As attendant to an e-Medical Visa holder
- (e) e-Conference Visa - Attending a conference/ seminar/ workshop organized by a Ministry or Department of the Government of India, State Governments or UT Administrations etc. and their subordinate/ attached organizations & PSUs.

Note : (1) A foreign national (other than those applying for e-Conference Visa) will also be permitted to club the activities provided he/she had clearly indicated the same in the application form along with requisite documents. Foreign nationals applying for e-Conference visa will be permitted to club the same with the activities permitted under e-Tourist visa only provided he/she had clearly indicated the same in the application form along with requisite documents.

(2) Crew members of non-scheduled & chartered flights operated by non-scheduled airlines and special flights can also avail e-Business visa for operating such flights.

(3) Applicant for e-Medical Attendant Visa will be required to furnish the complete details of the person coming on e-Medical visa to whom he or she will be an attendant in the application form.

(4) Only two persons (attendant or family member) of a person coming on e-Medical visa will be granted e-Medical Attendant visa.

(5) The applicants for e-Conference visa will have to upload the following along with the application:-

- (a) invitation from the organizer to attend the conference/ seminar/ workshop;
- (b) political clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs; and
- (c) event clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs, wherever considered necessary as per the existing guidelines mentioned in para 13.3 of this Visa Manual.

(6) e-Conference visa will not be available to nationals of PRC (Prior Reference Category countries) i.e. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan, foreigners of Pakistani origin & Stateless persons and also to nationals of countries who are not presently covered under e-visa. Further, e-Conference visa will not be available to participants of conferences /seminars/workshops who are required to visit 'Restricted' or 'Protected' areas in India, or areas affected by terrorism, militancy and extremism etc. viz. Jammu & Kashmir and the North Eastern States (other than the States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland)."

(C) Para 2.5 of Chapter 2 of the Visa Manual pertaining to e-Visa is substituted by the following:-

"2.5 Validity

e-Visa will be valid for entry and stay in India within the period of its validity subject to the conditions specified. e-visa will be granted as follows:-

- (i) For a period up to 60 days from the date of first entry into India with double entry on e-Tourist Visa and e-Business Visa
- (ii) For a period up to 60 days from the date of first entry into India with triple entry on e-Medical Visa and e-Medical Attendant Visa. e-Medical Attendant visa will be co-terminus with the validity of the principal e visa holder.
- (iii) For a period of 30 days from the date of entry into India with single entry on e-Conference Visa.

- (iv) In the case of e-Medical Visa and e-Medical Attendant Visa, extension may be granted up to 6 months on case to case basis on merits of each case by the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO)/ Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) concerned.
- (v) In the case of e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa and e-Conference visa, extension may be granted for a maximum period of 30 days on case to case basis on merits of each case by the FRRO/ FRO concerned. Any further extension of e-Tourist, e-Business and e-Conference visas up to a total period of 180 days from the date of initial entry can be granted in exceptional cases on merits of each case only with prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Foreigners Division).

Note: The Immigration officer shall invariably put the following unambiguous endorsement on an e-Visa: 'Stay not to exceed 60 days (*in the case of e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa and e-Medical Attendant visa*) / 30 days (*in the case of e-Conference visa*) and registration not required'.

- (D) First two sentences of para 2.6.1 Chapter 2 of the Visa Manual pertaining to e-Visa is substituted by the following:-

"2.6.1 e-Visa will be non-convertible to any other types of visa except in the following circumstances by the FRRO/FRO concerned:"

- (E) Sub-para 2.6.1(b) of Chapter 2 of the Visa Manual pertaining to e-visa is substituted by the following:-

"(b) If a foreigner holding an e-visa (other than e-Medical visa) falls ill after his/her entry into India, the following procedure shall be adopted:-

- (i) If such a foreigner is suffering from a minor medical condition which does not need hospitalization and prolonged treatment, then the foreigner is allowed to take treatment without applying for conversion of e-visa into Medical visa.
- (ii) In case of sudden illness which requires continuous treatment of less than the duration of e-visa, the foreigner or the medical representative (who is providing the treatment) should approach the office of FRRO/ FRO concerned and submit a medical certificate from a Government/ ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)/ NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers)/ MCI (Medical Council of India)/

CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) recognized hospital, mentioning the medical condition and recommendation for treatment along with the duration of treatment. FRRO/ FRO after due satisfaction that the foreigner has fallen ill while in India, instead of converting the e-visa to Medical visa, may grant permission for taking the treatment by issuing a 'Medical Permit' of limited duration i.e. for the duration of the treatment subject to a maximum period of duration of e-visa against a normal fee. The same should be reflected in the Unique Case File (UCF) as a separate service rendered by FRRO/ FRO. In such cases, the e-visa will not be cancelled and the foreigner may take treatment till the expiry of the duration of the e-visa. After the period of treatment, the e-visa shall continue to be valid for its normal duration.

- (iii) In case the treatment exceeds the duration of the e-visa, the e-visa may be converted to 'Medical' visa by FRRO/ FRO concerned and extended as per the provisions in para 6.5 of this Visa Manual applicable to normal Medical Visa after collecting necessary fees. In such cases, the e-visa will be cancelled.
- (iv) On acquisition of fitness certificate, the foreign national may be granted exit.
- (v) Responsibility of informing the office of FRRO/ FRO concerned about the Medical treatment will be with the foreigner himself/ herself and the concerned hospital/ clinic, where he/ she intends to take treatment. Subsequently, the hospital should convey the details of the treatment to jurisdictional FRRO/ FRO through C-Form, wherever applicable.
- (vi) Any willful violation/ misuse of the provision would render the foreigner liable to be blacklisted under category 'B'."

(F) Para 2.8 of Chapter 2 of the Visa Manual pertaining to e-visa is substituted by the following:-

"2.8 Repeat visits

e-Visa may be allowed for a maximum of three times in a calendar year to a foreigner."

(G) Para 3.5(b) of Chapter 3 of the Visa Manual pertaining to Visa-on-Arrival is substituted by the following:-

"(b) If a Japanese national holding Visa-on-Arrival falls ill after his/her entry into India, the following procedure shall be adopted:-

- (i) If such a foreigner is suffering from a minor medical condition which does not need hospitalization and prolonged treatment, then the foreigner is allowed to take treatment without applying for conversion of Visa-on-Arrival into Medical visa.
- (ii) In case of sudden illness which requires continuous treatment of less than the duration of Visa-on-Arrival, the foreigner or the medical representative (who is providing the treatment) should approach the office of FRRO/ FRO concerned and submit a medical certificate from a Government/ ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)/ NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers)/ MCI (Medical Council of India)/ CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) recognized hospital, mentioning the medical condition and recommendation for treatment along with the duration of treatment. FRRO/ FRO after due satisfaction that the foreigner has fallen ill while in India, instead of converting the Visa-on-Arrival to Medical visa, may grant permission for taking the treatment by issuing a 'Medical Permit' of limited duration i.e. for the duration of the treatment subject to a maximum period of duration of Visa-on-Arrival, against a normal fee. The same should be reflected in the Unique Case File (UCF) as a separate service rendered by FRRO/ FRO. In such cases, the Visa-on-Arrival will not be cancelled and the foreigner may take treatment till the expiry of the duration of the Visa-on-Arrival. After the period of treatment, the Visa-on-Arrival shall continue to be valid for its normal duration.
- (iii) In case the treatment exceeds the duration of the Visa-on-Arrival, the Visa-on-Arrival may be converted to 'Medical' visa by FRRO/ FRO concerned and extended as per the provisions in para 6.5 of this Visa Manual applicable to normal Medical Visa after collecting necessary fees. In such cases, the Visa-on-Arrival will be cancelled.
- (iv) On acquisition of fitness certificate, the foreign national may be granted exit.
- (v) Responsibility of informing the office of FRRO/ FRO concerned about the Medical treatment will be with the foreigner himself/ herself and the concerned hospital/ clinic, where he/ she intends to take treatment. Subsequently, the hospital should convey the

details of the treatment to jurisdictional FRRO/ FRO through C-Form, wherever applicable.

- (vi) Any willful violation/ misuse of the provision would render the foreigner liable to be blacklisted under category 'B'."
3. All other provisions in Chapters 2 and 3 of the Visa Manual would remain unchanged and continue to be in effect.
4. These instructions shall come into force with immediate effect.

Yours faithfully



(Pramod Kumar)
Director (Foreigners)
Tel. No. 23077508

Copy to:

1. Ministry of External Affairs [Shri Amrit Lugun, Joint Secretary (CPV)] - with the request to circulate these instructions to all Indian Missions and Posts.
2. Ministry of Tourism [Shri Suman Billa, Joint Secretary], Transport Bhavan, New Delhi
3. Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Commerce) [Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, Joint Secretary], Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi
4. Bureau of Immigration (Shri P.K. Bhardwaj, Additional Director) with the request to circulate these instructions to all FRROs/ FROs.
5. Director, Cabinet Secretariat.
6. DDG, NIC- with a request to place this Circular in the online Notice Board of C-Visa and C- FRO



(Pramod Kumar)
Director (Foreigners)

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