

FOREIGN SERVICE CIRCULAR NO. 2021-011

**SUBJECT: Partial Lifting of the Suspension of Visa Issuance**

Consistent with the resolutions promulgated by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID), the suspension of visa issuance is hereby **partially lifted** in accordance with the following:

1. Beginning 01 August 2021, Foreign Service Posts (FSPs) may issue 9(a) visas for the foreign spouse, parent/s and/or children of Filipino citizens only, whether or not travelling with said Filipino citizens, without need of an Entry Exemption Document (EED). It shall be the responsibility of the FSPs to determine the authenticity of the submitted documents and the qualification of the applicant/s prior to the issuance of the 9(a) visa.

In order for immigration officers to easily distinguish 9(a) visas without an EED and to avoid cases of erroneous exclusion/deportation, all 9(a) visas issued to the aforesaid foreign spouse, parent/s and/or children of Filipino citizens shall bear the notation, "EED not required per IATF Resolution 128 (s. 2021)."

Except for the above, **the issuance of 9(a) visas to other foreign nationals will remain suspended**, unless authorized through an Entry Exemption Document (EED).

All 9 (a) visas issued by Foreign Service Posts, whether through an EED or not, shall be limited to single-entry valid for ninety (90) days, unless otherwise authorized by DFA-OCA.

2. FSPs may likewise issue 9(e) and 9(c) crew list visas, without need of an Entry Exemption Document (EED), subject to existing issuances, guidelines and rules.
3. Beginning 01 August 2021, Foreign Service Posts (FSPs) may issue 9(g) and 47(a)(2) visas, subject to the following:
  - (a) Applications for 9(g) and 47(a)(2) visas for individuals qualified under these IATF-EID guidelines shall be lodged with the Bureau of Immigration (BI) and Department of Justice (DOJ), respectively. BI and DOJ shall convey the authority to issue said visas for approved applicants to the Office of Consular Affairs (OCA), for onward transmittal to Foreign Service Posts (FSPs). FSPs shall issue said visas only after receiving authority from the DFA-OCA.
  - (b) 9(g) visas for foreign workers shall be filed through a Philippine-based employer. Long-term workers (i.e. more than six [6] months employment) must apply through their Philippine-based employers for an Alien Employment Permit (AEP) with the regional offices of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as a prerequisite for 9 (g) issuance; and

- (c) 47(a)(2) visas shall be issued to foreign workers who are required to be in the country for foreign-funded government projects such as those for transportation and other infrastructure.

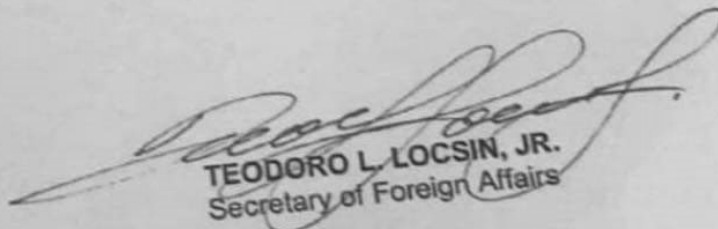
However, the issuance of 47(a)(2) visas for all other categories of foreign nationals qualified prior to the suspension of visa issuance, such as exchange professors / scholars / trainees / social workers under sponsorship, or volunteers registered with the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), remains suspended until further notice.

4. Foreign nationals who currently hold valid and existing 9(g) and 47(a)(2) visas shall no longer be required to secure any EED to enter the Philippines. However, their entry shall still be subject to the prevailing COVID-19 testing and quarantine protocols, as appropriate.

All visa-free travel privileges for foreign nationals remain suspended until further notice.

This circular amends FSC No. 29-2020 dated 19 March 2020 and succeeding amendatory circulars. Provisions in the said circulars that are not contrary to, or inconsistent herewith, remain valid until further notice.

For compliance.

  
TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR.  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Pasay City, 22 July 2021

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