

(As on 29th May, 2014)

PROJECT VISA

Within the Employment Visa regime, a separate visa regime for foreign nationals coming to India **for execution of projects in power and steel sectors**, labeled as **'Project Visa('P' Visa)** has been introduced. **The Project Visa will cover only the Power and Steel sectors initially.**

I. Conditions for grant of Project Visa

- (1) The Visa would be project specific and, while issuing the visa, a specific endorsement would be made on the Visa sticker indicating the name of the project for which visa is issued and location of the project. In no circumstances would the person be allowed to be engaged in another project either of the same company or of a different company.
- (2) The period of visa would be determined by the Indian Missions/Posts carefully in each case taking into account the actual duration of the project/ contract. The period of visa would be initially for a period of one year or for the actual duration of the project/ contract, whichever is less, with multiple-entry facility. The visa can be extended for another one year by the State Government/ UT Administration concerned after getting a field report from the FRRO/FRO concerned. Any further extension of visa can be granted only by the Ministry of Home Affairs on getting a report from the State Government/ UT Admn. concerned and security agency.
- (3) The employment/working of the foreign personnel would be restricted to the location of the project.
- (4) The Project visa would be issued based on submission of the relevant documents clearly establishing that the project/contract has been assigned to the particular foreign company by the Indian company/organization concerned.
- (5) The Project Visa would be issued only for skilled/highly skilled persons. The Project visa will not be issued for unskilled/semi-skilled workers. However, the Missions/Posts may grant visa for not more than two (2) chefs and two (2) interpreters.
- (6) A person coming on Project Visa will not be allowed to take up employment in the same Indian company for a period of two years from the date of commissioning of the project. In case the person has to come

for attending to any emergent maintenance / commissioning issues, he / she can be granted a non-extendable Business Visa.

- (7) The Indian Company engaging the foreign national for executing the project / contract would be responsible for the conduct of the foreign national during his/her stay in India and also for the departure of such foreign national upon expiry of visa.
- (8) In case the project/contract site falls in the Protected/Restricted Area notified by the Government, the grant of Protected/Restricted Area Permit should be integrated with the grant of Project Visa. In all such cases, prior clearance of the Ministry of Home Affairs shall be obtained by the Indian Missions/Posts concerned for issue of Protected/Restricted Area Permit and for grant of visa. The details of the foreign personnel must be furnished to the Ministry of Home Affairs (Foreigners Division) and to the State Government concerned well in advance in electronic mode so that advance action can be taken for obtaining the requisite security clearance.
- (9) The foreigner coming on Project Visa will have to register himself/herself with the FRRO/FRO concerned within 14 days of arrival if the validity of visa is for more than 180 days. If the validity of visa is for a period of 180 days or less, registration would not be required.
- (10) A biometric-based identification of the foreign personnel coming for executing projects/contracts will be introduced (at appropriate stage).

II. Sector-specific ceiling on the maximum number of Project Visas allowed for each project

A. Power

- (i) A block of two units may be considered as one project.
- (ii) Where the main plant equipment – Boiler, Turbine, Generator (BTG) – and its sub-systems are sourced from foreign Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), the maximum number of foreign personnel allowed may vary from 50 to 70.
- (iii) For an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) project, where the main plant and equipment, its sub-systems and full or part of the Balance of Plant (BOP) is sourced from foreign OEM, the maximum number of foreign personnel allowed may vary from 76 to 125. This would be for an EPC project consisting of two units of 660 MW and above with supercritical technology.

- (iv) In case, the number of units is more than two in a project, the maximum number of foreign personnel allowed would be as indicated below:-

Additional unit (admissible to additional units resulting in project size exceeding 600 MW capacity)	Where main plant equipment (BTG) and its sub-systems are sourced from foreign OEM	EPC project where main plant and equipment, its sub-systems and full or part of the Balance of Plant (BOP) is sourced from foreign OEM
1 st additional Unit	105	187
2 nd additional Unit	122	219
3 rd additional Unit	140	250
4 th additional Unit	157	281

(Note: To qualify as a separate project for additional units at the same location, a gap of minimum one year in the date of award of contract shall be considered necessary between two such projects)

- (v) Wherever, for a project, Flue Gas Desulphurization System (FGD) is also sourced from a foreign supplier, an additional number of 25 foreign personnel is recommended. For a project with larger numbers of units (more than two), the additional number of foreign personnel would be as follows:

1st additional unit - 37
 2nd additional unit- 44
 3rd additional unit- 50
 4th additional unit- 56

B. Steel

- (i) In case of green field projects – 10% of the total skilled manpower deployed per million tonne capacity or 300 persons, whichever is lower.
- (ii) For Brownfield projects – 5% of the total skilled manpower deployed per million tonne capacity or 150 persons, whichever is lower.
- (iii) The total manpower requirements of the project should be determined at the stage of conceptualization of the project by the sponsoring authority with a flow chart.

- (iv) Foreign manpower requirement beyond the above limits may be examined by a Standing Committee having members from Ministries concerned.
- (v) For the purpose of determining the capacity of the unit, it should be the approved capacity as certified by the Ministry concerned of the Government of India in respect of PSUs. In respect of Private sector Steel units, the basis of capacity may be as per the financial disclosure statement of a Scheduled Bank or RBI-approved Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC) duly authenticated and certified.
- (vi) For ongoing projects with contractual obligation, deployment of foreign personnel may exceed the guidelines based on examination by the Ministry of Labour & Employment on the merits of each case.
