

Procedure & Cautionary Items After the Issuance of the Certificate of Eligibility

Obtaining Visa with a Certificate of Eligibility

After obtaining a Certificate of Eligibility in Japan, applicant can apply for visa at a Japanese embassy or consulate overseas.

Recently, however, changing visa status from short term with a certificate of eligibility in Japan is possible.

The person listed on the Certificate of Eligibility is to apply for a visa at an overseas Japanese embassy or consulate.

The minimum documentation required when applying for visa overseas at a Japanese embassy or consulate is Certificate of Eligibility and two photographs (45 mm x 45 mm). Depending on nationality and the embassy or consulate abroad other documents may be required as well. Thus, checking in advance with the embassy or consulate is recommended.

The number of days the embassy or consulate will take between accepting application and granting the visa differs somewhat from county to country. Visa may be issued on the same day or after several business days.

When a visa is issued, the Certificate of Eligibility will be returned to the applicant, who is to present it to an immigration inspector at an airport or port at the time of his/her application for a landing permission to enter Japan.

Validity of Certificate of Eligibility

The certificate of eligibility is valid for 3 months from the date of issue and within the validity a visa should be obtained and landing in Japan should be done with a valid visa & certificate of eligibility.

Entering Japan

At the time of entering Japan on the working visa granted overseas on the basis of the Certificate of Eligibility, the visa is regarded as cancelled upon entry to Japan. [However, in the case of multiple entry work visa it is not so.] The immigration official at Narita or another port of entry will replace it by stamping residence status and the expiry date of stay on passport. With that stamp in place, permission for an extended stay in Japan is given.

Cautionary Items

- As one of the requirements for entry into Japan pursuant to Article 7-1-2 of the Immigration-Control and Refugee-Recognition Act the Certificate of Eligibility is useful for the easier and faster procedure to enter Japan at the time of arrival at an airport or port in Japan.
Indeed this document makes it easier to obtain a visa issued at an overseas Japanese embassy or consulate.
However, this document guarantees neither the issuance of a visa nor the permission to enter Japan.
- Those who do not obtain a necessary visa in advance in accordance with the procedure explained above are refused to enter Japan at an airport or port in Japan.