

Re: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) approval for returning to Myanmar, updated 7 June 2021

Background

Post the events of 1 February, many foreign professionals and their families temporarily left Myanmar for their home and neighboring countries in South East Asia.

In the past few weeks, many have expressed interest in returning to Myanmar and subsequently contacted FocusCore Myanmar to receive an update on the process and approval required to return.

We understand the process and documentation required (set out below) to be as follows:

1. Step 1, the foreigner will need to apply at the Myanmar Embassy in their home country.
2. Step 2, the Embassy will report to MOFA.
3. Step 3, MOFA will ask for a recommendation from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).
4. Step 4, DICA will also ask the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MOLIP) whether the foreigner is on the blacklist or not.
5. Final step, Step 5, DICA will reply to MOFA to approve the return of the foreigner to Myanmar.

If the returning foreign professional works for an institution registered with the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), the communication with DICA would be routed to CBM directly.

Documents to be submitted

The returning foreigner must submit the following documents to their nearest Myanmar Embassy:

1. Invitation letter from their employer
2. Recommendation letter from their employer
3. Valid visa page copy
4. Passport copy
5. DICA Certificate of Incorporation
6. DICA Company Extract
7. Covid vaccine certificate
8. Covid test certificate (or letter of undertaking, stating you will complete a Covid test no later than 72 hours before departure).

Upon submitting the above and approval is obtained, the returning foreigner can book a seat on a relief flight. Unfortunately, we cannot assist with the flight details since we are not a tour operator. The respective Embassy in their home country should be able to advise accordingly.

We can, however, assist with document preparation, drafting and the extension of stay permit, FRC registration and renewal and updating of Form C in Myanmar if and when required. (*See below for further information)

As you can appreciate, whilst this is the position and procedures at the time of writing, procedures and timing could change at short notice so we would encourage you to keep in contact with FocusCore Myanmar for the latest updates.

Please contact yingying.aye@focuscorecs.com if you require further assistance or have any additional questions.

*Stay Permit Application

Pursuant to the Registration of Foreigners Act (1940) and the Registration of Foreigners Rules (1948), foreigners who work and reside in Myanmar for more than (90) consecutive days are required to apply for a Foreign Registration Certificate ("FRC"), Long-Term Stay Permit ("SP") and Multiple Journey Special Reentry VISA ("MJSRV").

The initial application will be valid for six (6) months from the expiry date of your arrival visa, subsequent renewals will be valid for twelve (12) months and then renewed every twelve (12) months thereafter. The processing time after submission of all documents will take approximately seven (7) weeks.

Please contact yingying.aye@focuscorecs.com if you would like to receive our fee proposal outlining the government and FocusCore' services fees.

Important information pertaining to **FORM C**: The FORM C is a document that is used to register foreigners at their place of residence with the Government. When the employees sign their lease and move into their rented accommodation, the landlord must register them as a tenant with the local authority. The landlord will then submit the passport and lease agreement to the township officer to obtain the FORM C. According to the official regulations, the FORM C must be applied for within 24 hours upon arrival to Myanmar. FocusCore can assist with the process on behalf of the applicants landlord, however by law, this is the ultimate responsibility of the landlord. If you need our assistance, please contact us.