

Immigration Regulations to be Observed and Followed by Exhibitors

1) Exhibitors from outside Hong Kong

According to the policy of Immigration Department of Hong Kong, foreign visitors are allowed to remain in Hong Kong for the purposes of sightseeing, shopping, as well as conducting contracts, attending meetings and conferences, etc. For the purpose of immigration control, visitors are subject to certain conditions of stay specified in the Immigration Regulations. These conditions preclude a visitor from taking up employment, whether paid or unpaid and he is not allowed to establish or join in any business. Those who wish to be engaged in day-to-day business operations or investment activities in Hong Kong will have to apply for a work permit.

In the case of a trade exhibition, whether an exhibitor needs a work permit would depend on the nature of the business of the exhibition booth he/she mans and his/her activities therein. In general, if the exhibitor' s activities are focused on promotion without engaging in retail sales, he will not need to apply for a work permit. However, if an exhibitor from outside Hong Kong is engaged in retail sales activities, a work permit will be required.

2) Exhibitors from Mainland China

Where Mainland China exhibitors participating in trade fairs are concerned, it should be noted that they must apply for exit permission from the relevant Mainland China authorities. For business visits, Mainland residents have to apply to the PSB Office in their place of domicile for permission to enter Hong Kong under the Business Visit Scheme. The PSB will issue an exit-entry permit with a business visit endorsement to Mainland business visitors. Exhibitors from Mainland China are required to meet Hong Kong Immigration regulations as stipulated in item 1 of the above.

3) Exhibitors from India

Under the new policy announced by the Immigration Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Indian nationals will now be required to complete a free online pre-arrival registration and get an instant result regarding their eligibility for 14-day visa-free entry into Hong Kong. The Pre-arrival Registration (PAR) for Indian nationals are being implemented from 23 January 2017 onwards. Failure to present the notification slip from the online registration together with a valid Indian passport will lead to refusal of their boarding a conveyance bound for the HKSAR and refusal of entry into Hong Kong upon arrival.

For more information and online registration, please visit:

http://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/prearrival_registration_for_indian_nationals.html

4) Hong Kong Exhibitors

If any local exhibitor is planning to deploy or hire any personnel from outside Hong Kong at the booths during fair period (including move-in and move-out days), the above regulations (items 1 and 2) will also apply.

For details of Hong Kong immigration regulations, you may access the Immigration Department's web-site (www.info.gov.hk/immd/). If you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

Hong Kong Trade Development Council.