



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 2021-02

Subject: Classification of 9(a) Temporary Visitor's Visa

Article 1. Legal Basis

The Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 (Commonwealth Act No. 613), as amended, provides that the Department of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the issuance of Philippine visas abroad, through its diplomatic and consular posts. As Section 9(a) of the said Act has made disjunctive or alternative the types of temporary visitors which may be allowed entry into Philippine territory, it has provided guidance as to the classification or subcategories of the 9(a) visa.

Article 2. Coverage

This Order covers all Foreign Service Posts (FSPs) of the Department of Foreign Affairs, including honorary consular offices, authorized to issue 9(a) temporary visitor's visa. Issuance of **single and multiple-entry 9(a) visas** shall conform to the classification herein prescribed.

Article 3. Classification of Temporary Visitors

After thorough evaluation of the purpose of travel and temporary stay of the applicant, the concerned FSP shall issue 9(a) Temporary Visitor's Visa with the following classification:

- a. **9(a-1) visa – for Business Visitors:** foreign nationals visiting the Philippines temporarily for scientific, commercial, industrial, professional and business purposes, who will not receive any compensation from a company/entity in the Philippines for services rendered in the country.
- b. **9(a-2) visa – for Tourism or Leisure Visitors:** foreign nationals visiting the Philippines temporarily for pleasure or touristic, leisure, religious, recreation, or amusement purposes, or to visit family, relatives, or friends, and staying for a predetermined amount of time.
- c. **9(a-3) visa – for Medical Treatment Visitors:** foreign nationals visiting the Philippines temporarily for medical treatment purposes or health reasons, including their escorts.
- d. **9(a-4) visa – for Private Yachtsmen/Sailors:** foreign nationals visiting the Philippines temporarily on board a private yacht/sailboat; provided that such temporary visit will not entail an employer-employee relationship.

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relationship with a company/entity in the Philippines or the payment of any compensation in the Philippines.

- e. **9(a-5) visa – for Filmmaking Visitors:** foreign nationals visiting the Philippines temporarily for movie or documentary filming purposes; provided that such temporary visit will not entail an employer-employee relationship with a company/entity in the Philippines or the payment of any compensation in the Philippines.
- f. **9(a-6) visa – for Journalism Visitors:** foreign nationals visiting the Philippines temporarily for news and journalism purposes; provided that such temporary visit will not entail an employer-employee relationship with a company/entity in the Philippines or the payment of any compensation in the Philippines.
- g. **9(a-7) visa – for Athletic and Performing Arts Visitors:** foreign nationals visiting the Philippines temporarily for athletic and performing arts purposes; provided that such temporary visit will not entail an employer-employee relationship with a company/entity in the Philippines or the payment of any compensation in the Philippines other than prize money for participation in a sporting or performing arts event.
- h. **9(a-8) visa – for Visitors with Other Purposes:** foreign nationals visiting the Philippines temporarily for purposes other than those cited above; provided that such temporary visit will not entail an employer-employee relationship with a company/entity in the Philippines or the payment of any compensation in the Philippines.

Article 4. Core and Specific Visa Requirements

- a. The following are the Core Requirements for all 9(a) visa applications:
 - Duly accomplished visa application form (FA Form No. 2) with a passport-size photograph taken during the last six (6) months
 - Passport valid for at least six (6) months beyond authorized period of stay in the Philippines
- b. The Specific Requirements per Visa Type are found in the Annex of this Department Order.

Article 5. General Procedure

The issuance of appropriate 9(a) visa is subject to the following procedure:

- a. The applicant or his/her authorized representative shall submit the application and requirements.
- b. The Consular Officer shall check the completeness and authenticity of requirements.
- c. The Consular Officer shall conduct security vetting (Visa Look-out List, NICA, BI clearances, and others, as appropriate).

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d. The applicant shall pay visa fees and expedite fees, as applicable.

Article 6. Repealing Clause

All other Department issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Article 7. Effectivity

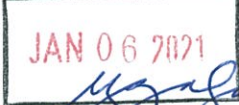

This Department Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its registration with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), UP Law Center, Quezon City.

By Authority of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs


BRIGIDO J. DULAY
Undersecretary

Pasay City, 06 JAN 2021

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ANNEX

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS PER 9(A) VISA TYPE

I. 9(a-1) Visa for Business Visitors

A. For Business Owners:

- Tickets or flight reservation (entry and exit)
- Invitation letter from a Philippine government/private entity or endorsement from a chamber of commerce (recognized by the host government) in the country where the business is located
- Proof of business operations/ income
 - Business permit/license or registration
 - Bank statement of the latest six (6) months or tax payments
- Hotel accommodation or proof of lodging

B. For Employees:

- Certificate of Employment in a managerial level or higher
- Tickets or flight reservation (entry and exit)
- Invitation letter from a Philippine government/private entity
- Endorsement letter from the applicant's company
- Employment certificate with remuneration or letter of guarantee from the company/sponsor
- Hotel accommodation or proof of lodging

II. 9(a-2) Visa for Tourism or Leisure Visitors

- Tickets or flight reservation (entry and exit)
- Proof of financial capacity (any of the following)
 - Bank statement of the latest six (6) months
 - Employment certificate with remuneration
 - Proof of business income
 - Letter of guarantee from the sponsor with proof of financial capacity
- Documents proving ties to the home country/country of residence (any of the following)
 - Employment certificate
 - Property documents
- Itinerary
- Hotel accommodation or proof of lodging
- For Minors not travelling with a parent/guardian (additional requirement):
 - Letter of permission from a parent/guardian

III. 9(a-3) Visa for Medical Treatment Visitors

- Tickets or flight reservation (entry and exit)
- Acceptance letter or confirmation of treatment or appointment from a Philippine medical or wellness institution

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- Proof of medical condition, such as medical abstract from the sending medical or wellness institution
- Proof of financial means (any of the following)
 - Bank statement of the latest six (6) months
 - Pay slips for the latest six (6) months or employment certificate with remuneration (for employees)
 - Pension statements of the latest six months (for retirees)
 - Receipt/confirmation of advance payment or deposit made for the treatment
 - Letter of guarantee from the sponsor with proof of financial capacity
- Health insurance policy (if any)
- Hotel accommodation or proof of lodging
- For Minors not travelling with a parent/guardian (additional requirement):
 - Letter of permission from a parent/guardian
- For escort:
 - Letter from the sending medical or wellness institution assigning the foreign national to escort the patient

IV. 9(a-4) Visa for Yachtsmen/Sailors

- Letter from the owner/captain indicating the following:
 - Port or area of entry
 - Date of entry and period of stay
 - List of crew and passengers
 - Particulars of the vessel:
 - Type
 - Name
 - Registration
 - Call sign
- Boat insurance policy
- Cargo manifest
- Character reference/shipping agent in the Philippines (if any)
- For Minors not travelling with a parent/guardian (additional requirement):
 - Letter of permission from a parent/guardian

V. 9(a-5) Visa for Filmmaking Visitors

- Tickets or flight reservation (entry and exit)
- Letter of request addressed to the International Press Center
- Background of film outfit
- Curriculum Vitae of the filmmaker, including a shortlist of work credits
- Synopsis/storyline of the film
- Itinerary of activities
- List of members of the crew with designations (if any)
- Employment certificate or contract from the film outfit
- List of equipment with certification from the film outfit that said equipment will be re-exported at the end of the trip to the Philippines
- Hotel accommodation or proof of lodging

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VI. 9(a-6) Visa for Journalism Visitors

- Tickets or flight reservation (entry and exit)
- Letter of request addressed to the International Press Center
- Background of media organization, or of contracting media organization (for freelance journalists)
- Curriculum Vitae of newsman/journalist, including a shortlist of work credits
- Copy of one published article/work of journalist
- Synopsis/storyline/purpose of the news
- Itinerary of activities
- List of members of the crew with designations (if any)
- Employment certificate or contract from media company
- List of equipment with certification from the media organization that said equipment will be re-exported at the end of the trip to the Philippines
- Hotel accommodation or proof of lodging

VII. 9(a-7) Visa for Athletic and Performing Arts Visitors

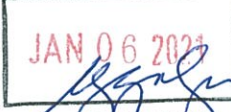
- Tickets or flight reservation (entry and exit)
- Letter of request from the applicant's team, group, or organization
- Invitation letter from the organizer of the event
- Endorsement letter from Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Games and Amusement Board, or a national sporting association duly recognized by the PSC/POC/GAB (for athletes)
- Endorsement letter from the Local Government Unit where the venue of the event is located (for performers)
- Contract or agreement with the organizer, including promotional materials
- Itinerary of activities
- Proof of financial means or letter of guarantee from the sponsor
- List of members of the crew with designations (if applicable)
- Employment certificate of crew members (if applicable)
- List of equipment with certification from the group that said equipment will be re-exported at the end of the trip to the Philippines (if applicable)
- Hotel accommodation or proof of lodging
- For Minors (additional requirement):
 - Letter of permission from a parent/guardian

VIII. 9(a-8) Visa for Visitors with Other Purposes

A. For Visitors with Other Purposes

- Tickets or flight reservation (entry and exit)
- Proof of financial capacity
- Documents relative to the purpose of visit
- Hotel accommodation or proof of lodging
- For Minors not travelling with a parent/guardian (additional requirement):
 - Letter of permission from a parent/guardian

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