

Regulation No. (90) for the Year 2000

Regulation for Entry Visa, Labor and Residency in the Aqaba Special Economic Zone

**Published on Page 274 of the Official Gazette No. 4472 on 16/1/2001
Issued in accordance with Article (48) of the Aqaba Special
Economic Zone Law, as amended No. (32) for the Year 2000**

Article (1): This Regulation shall be known as the (Regulation for Entry Visa, Labor and Residency in the Aqaba Special Economic Zone for the Year 2000) and shall come into effect as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2):

The following words and phrases wherever used in this Regulation shall have the meanings ascribed thereto unless the context indicates otherwise:

Law	: The Aqaba Special Economic Zone Law.
Zone	: The Aqaba Special Economic Zone.
Authority	: The Authority of the Zone
Board	: The Board of Commissioners.
Chief Commissioner	: The Chairman of the Board.
Crossing Points	: The terrestrial, marine and air passages of the Kingdom in the Zone.

Article (3):

- A. The Authority shall issue the following for non-Jordanians pursuant to instructions issued by the Board:
1. Visit visa.
 2. Transit visa.
 3. Work visa.
 4. Work permit.
 5. Residency permit.
- B. The application forms for obtaining visas, work and residency permits stated in Paragraph (A) of this Article shall be determined in accordance with instructions issued by the Board.

Article (4):

- A. The Authority shall coordinate with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Labor, as the case may be, the process of issuing visas, work and residency permits as agreed upon through memorandums of understanding.

- B. The competent body at the Authority shall be responsible for issuing visas for entry into the Zone, work and residency permits therein, and for taking the necessary procedures relating to such according to the provisions of this Regulation and the instructions issued by the Board for this purpose.

Article (5):

- A. Whoever shall apply for a visa, work or residency permit or the renewal thereof must hold a passport, recognized by the Kingdom and valid for at least three months or a traveling document, recognized by the Kingdom and valid for at least six months.
- B. Notwithstanding what is stated in Paragraph (A) of this Article, the Chief Commissioner may, in special cases where the business interest in the Zone so requires, take what he deems appropriate concerning any case in which the conditions stated in Paragraph (A) of this Article are not fulfilled.

Article (6):

- A. A non-Jordanian may apply for a visit visa at any crossing point and reside in the Zone for the period stated in that visa.
- B. A visit visa shall not be renewed if the holder is convicted during his presence in the Kingdom of a felony or misdemeanor affecting honor, if a warrant is issued for his arrest or if a request for his extradition is made by another country according to the provisions of the agreements to which the Kingdom is a party.

Article (7): The competent body shall issue a transit visa for a period not exceeding (72) hours for a non-Jordanian who wants to use the Zone as a transit from one foreign country to another or to the Customs Territory.

Article (8):

- A. A non-Jordanian holding a visit visa for the Kingdom or a residency permit therein may enter the Zone without obtaining an entry visa thereto.
- B. A non-Jordanian, whose entry into the Customs Territory does not require a visa from the line authorities in the Kingdom, shall be exempt from applying for an entry visa into the Zone.
- C. The Chief Commissioner shall coordinate with the Minister of Interior through a memorandum of understanding regulating the movement from the Zone into the Customs Territory of holders of entry visas and residency permits in the Zone.

Article (9): The Board shall issue instructions concerning the issuance of entry visas into the Zone in all their types, periods, conditions and procedures of granting such, exemptions therefrom and renewal of such.

Article (10):

- A. Any resident in the Zone or employer therein, whether a Registered Enterprise or not, may apply to the Authority for issuance of a work visa for bringing any non-Jordanian worker into the Kingdom to work for him in the Zone.
- B. The work visa issued by the Authority shall be for periods of three, six or twelve months, or for the period of the employment contract, provided that such period does not exceed five years. Such visa shall be renewable.
- C. The work visa shall be considered as a residency permit for the period of the visa. The holder of such shall be given (15) days to leave the Zone upon the expiration or revocation of the work visa.

Article (11): The Authority shall be entitled to decide to revoke the visa granted according to the provisions of this Regulation in any of the following cases:

- A. If the visa was obtained through fraudulent methods or illegal means.
- B. If the visa holder breaches any of the conditions for the issuance of the visa.
- C. If it becomes evident that the presence of the visa holder in the Zone constitutes a threat to the Public Interest.

Article (12): Any resident in the Zone or employer therein, whether a Registered Enterprise or not, may apply to the Authority for issuance of a work permit for any non-Jordanian worker in the Kingdom to work for him, in any of the following cases:

- A. If the worker has obtained a residency permit in the Kingdom.
- B. If the worker works in the Zone pursuant to a work permit issued by the line authorities prior to the enforcement of this Regulation.
- C. If the worker is exempted from obtaining an entry visa into the Kingdom pursuant to the legislation in force.
- D. If the worker holds a visit visa for the Zone or the Kingdom and will be working for the employer for a period not exceeding (60) days from the date of his entry into the Kingdom.

Article (13): A non-Jordanian is not allowed to work in the Zone unless he has obtained a work visa or permit, authorizing its holder to work only for the employer who has applied for the visa or permit.

Article (14):

- A. The work permit issued by the Authority shall be for periods of three, six or twelve months, or for the period of the employment contract, provided that such period does not exceed five years. Such permit shall be renewable.

- B. A non-Jordanian worker who has obtained a work permit shall be granted a residency permit valid for the period of the work permit. Such worker shall be given (15) days to leave the Zone upon the expiration or revocation of the work permit.

Article (15):

- A. All work fields in the Zone shall be open for non-Jordanian workers according to instructions issued by the Board, provided that Jordanian workers are given priority in work opportunities.
- B. The number of Jordanian workers in any Registered Enterprise or project within the Zone, whose number of workers exceed (5) workers, shall not in any case be less than the following:
 - 1. (3) workers if the number of workers does not exceed (18) workers.
 - 2. (30)% of the total of workers if the number of workers exceeds (18) workers.
- C. If there is insufficient or unqualified Jordanian manpower to work at a Registered Enterprise or the relevant project, the Board may decrease the percentage of Jordanian workers or exempt the employer from such according to the bases determined in instructions issued by the Board for this purpose and stated in Paragraph (A) of this Article.

Article (16): The work visa or permit shall expire in any of the following cases:

- A. If the visa or permit expires and is not renewed.
- B. If the services of the worker are expired or terminated for any reason.
- C. If the project or the Registered Enterprise in which he works is terminated or cancelled.
- D. If the worker accepts to work for other than the employer who had applied for the permit or the visa.
- E. If the worker is convicted of a felony or misdemeanor affecting honor.

Article (17): The Board shall issue the necessary instructions for granting residency permits, and the conditions and renewal of such, provided that the period is three, six, nine months, a year or (5) years according to the period of the work permit.

Article (18):

- A. The spouse and dependents of a foreigner residing in the Zone shall be granted a residency permit according to the following conditions:
 - 1. Attach with the application for obtaining a residency permit documents proving the marital status or the dependency.

2. The dependent must be from the foreign resident's offsprings or his relatives up to the first degree according to the provisions of the enacted Jordanian legislation.
 3. The dependent should not be married.
- B. The residency permit that is granted according to the provisions of Paragraph (A) of this Article shall expire if the marital relationship ends, if one of the conditions provided for in such Paragraph are not fulfilled or if the residency permit granted for the foreign resident is revoked or has expired.

Article (19): The Chief Commissioner or whom he delegates may grant the foreign investor and his dependents a residency permit according to the conditions determined in accordance with instructions issued by the Chief Commissioner for this purpose.

Article (20):

- A. The residency permit shall expire if it is not renewed or if the visa is revoked according to the provisions of Article (11) of this Regulation.
- B. A non-Jordanian shall be given (15) days to leave the Zone after his residency expires.

Article (21): The holder of a residency permit shall be entitled to reside in the Zone, to leave and return throughout the period of such permit.

Article (22): Where the Authority finds that a foreigner is illegally residing in the Zone or that his presence constitutes a threat to the Public Interest, it may take the necessary procedures to revoke the visa and residency permit granted to him and deport him outside the Kingdom according to the prevailing principles.

Article (23): Every person holding a residency permit according to the provisions of this Regulation must notify the Authority of his residence, and changes thereof and must indicate his new address within three days of the date of the change, according to instructions issued by the Board for this purpose.

Article (24):

- A-1 The applications for obtaining work visas, residency or work permits or the renewal thereof must be resolved within (7) working days from the date of submission of the application to the competent body at the Authority. Unless there are circumstances that prevent such, then such body must resolve the applications within a period not exceeding (14) days from the date of the submission of the application.

2. The competent body at the Authority shall be entitled to reject the application of issuing any work visa, work permit, or residency permit without indicating the reasons.
 3. In the event of rejection of the application, the competent body must provide the Chief Commissioner and the applicant with the written rejection and its reasons within (3) days from the date of its issuance.
- B. The competent body at the Authority must resolve the applications of the transit or visit visa or the renewal thereof upon the submission of the applications without delay.

Article (25):

- A. The Authority shall collect for the issuance of a work visa or permit in the Zone a JD (125) fee for every three months of the visa's or permit's period.
- B. If the period of the visa or permit exceeds three months, the fee shall be collected once at the rate of JD (125) for every three months of the period of such.
- C. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (A) and (B) of this Article, the Authority shall collect a fee of sixty five Dinars for every three months of the period of the visa or permit for the issuance of work visa or work permits for the workers of the Registered Enterprises in the Zone working in the Garments and Textile Sector.

Article (26): The Board shall issue the necessary instructions for implementing the provisions of this Regulation.

5/12/2000