



Global Immigration alert

July 2024

South Korea

New rule for F-3 Dependent Visa applications filed at the KOTRA office in Seoul

Executive summary

Effective 1 August 2024, qualifying family members of D-8 Corporate Investment Visa applicants who submit their applications at the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) office must file their F-3 Dependent Visa applications along with the primary applicant's D-8 Visa application.

Background

Individuals who seek to apply for D-8 Visas may submit their applications (as well as their family members' F-3 Visa applications) at the KOTRA office in Seoul or at any of the district immigration offices in South Korea. Individuals may walk in to the KOTRA office to submit an application (but need to book an appointment prior to application submission at the district offices), and the KOTRA office processes applications on the spot (compared to two to three weeks of processing time for applications submitted at the district offices). In addition, those who apply for F-3 Visas at the KOTRA office do not need to submit legalized marriage and birth certificates, but are required to do so if they apply at a district office.

Key developments

Effective 1 August 2024, KOTRA will no longer accept applications for new F-3 Visas if they are filed separately from the primary applicant's D-8 Visa application. Consequently, dependents will be required to travel to South Korea along with the principal applicant. Previously, eligible dependents could enter South Korea after the primary applicant and submit their F-3 Visa applications separately at a KOTRA office. Dependents may continue to file other applications separately

at the KOTRA office, such as applications for alien registration, visa extensions and Status of Stay for newborn children.

District immigration offices will continue to accept F-3 Dependent Visa applications filed separately from the primary application.

Impact on employers

Employers may ensure that their impacted employees are aware of, and comply with, the new KOTRA requirements to minimize delays and business disruptions.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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