

Enforcement of the Technical Intern Training Act (Technical Intern Training Programs have been revised)

The Act on the Appropriate Implementation of Technical Intern Training and the Protection of Technical Intern Trainees, a new Japanese law, came into effect on November 1, 2017. The Technical Intern Training Act was enacted primarily to ensure proper implementation of technical intern training programs and to protect technical intern trainees.

The points that we want technical intern trainees to understand are discussed below.

Whether the Technical Intern Training Act applies to you depends on when you entered the country and your residence status. Please check with your supervising organization or implementing organization regarding whether the Act applies to you.

1. Responsibilities of Technical Intern Trainees

The Act expressly provides with regard to the responsibilities of technical intern trainees that “technical intern trainees must work to ensure the acquisition, etc. of skills, etc. by concentrating on their technical intern training, and transfer said skills, etc. to their home country.” This approach to responsibilities is unchanged from previously.

Technical intern trainees should receive a prior explanation of the technical intern training plan from the implementing organization, make sure they fully understand the details, and properly undergo the technical intern training in accordance with the plan at the specified technical training site so that they can exhibit the skills learned in Japan after returning to their home countries.

2. Extension of the Technical Training Period

In addition to the existing status of residence (Technical Intern Training (1) and Technical Intern Training (2)) a new status of residence—Technical Intern Training (3)—has been created and the technical period has been increased from a maximum of three years to five years.

There are conditions, however, for Technical Intern Training (3) (the fourth and subsequent years of technical intern training). The main requirements are: ① that the technical intern trainee pass a technical skills test equivalent to the National Trade Skills Test, the basic level (3), and ② That the technical intern trainee’s implementing organization and supervising organization are recognized as excellent organizations (with regard to the technical skills test, referred to “3: Taking Technical Skills Tests Made Mandatory”).

When undergoing Technical Intern Training (3), after completion of the Technical Intern Training (2), technical intern trainees are required to return to their home country for at least one month and then reenter Japan.

3. Taking Technical Skills Tests Made Mandatory

Technical skills tests are intended to confirm whether a technical intern trainee is gaining the target skills as planned.

Technical intern trainees must currently take a test when they transfer from Technical Intern Training (1) to Technical Intern Training (2), and in the future, it will also be necessary to take practical tests when completing the Training (2) and Training (3) (when the third and fifth years of technical intern training are completed). The levels of the tests rise at each stage, and accordingly, it is necessary that technical intern trainees thoroughly prepare for the tests based on the guidance of the technical intern training instructors so that they can adequately exhibit the results of their day-to-day training.

4. Enhanced Protection of Technical Intern Trainees

The Technical Intern Training Act prohibits coerced technical training through violence, threats, imprisonment, and so on of technical intern trainees by implementing organizations, as well as taking away passports and resident's cards, and imposes penalties in cases of violations. If you experience any difficulties, you can contact the newly-established Organization for Technical Intern Training.

5. Organization for Technical Intern Training Established

The newly established Organization for Technical Intern Training is an organization that conducts consultations for technical intern trainees and provides support for technical intern trainees, who are facing difficulties with their technical intern training, to change training organizations. The main office is located in Tokyo, but there are thirteen regional offices and branches located nationwide.

Organization for Technical Intern Training Consultations in Native Languages

- Telephone calls accepted: 11:00 - 19:00

Vietnamese and Chinese (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)

Indonesian (Tuesday and Thursday)

Tagalog and English (Tuesday and Saturday)

Thai (Thursday and Saturday)

- Email inquiries: Emails are accepted through the native language consultation site 24 hours a day.

For telephone numbers and other details, check the Organization for Technical Intern Training website (<http://www.otit.go.jp/>) or check the Technical Intern Trainee Handbook, which has been issued and distributed since November 2017.

*JITCO also accepts inquiries in native languages.