

Revision of the numbers of acceptances on SSW and addition of fields and job categories (Cabinet Decision of March 29, 2024)

March 29, 2024

Immigration Service Agency

On March 29, 2024, the Cabinet decided to change the Basic Policy on the SSW and the operational policies on the (Sector-specific “fields”). The revisions are as follows.

➤ **1 Re-establish the expected number of acceptances on SSW**

Under the SSW, the number of foreign workers expected to be accepted over a five-year period is set for each field of employment, and unless there is a major change in the economic situation, this is used as the upper limit for the acceptance of SSW(i). The expected number of acceptance in each field for the next five years from April 2024 has been now set and stipulated in the operation policy for each field. In addition, since it is necessary to further improve the environment for accepting foreign workers as the number of acceptance increases, Immigration Service Agency has decided to clearly state in the basic policy that it is the responsibility of the companies accepting foreign workers to contribute to the realization of a symbiotic society.

➤ **2 Addition of fields and job categories**

Under the SSW, only in industrial fields where it is difficult to secure human resources despite

efforts to improve productivity and secure domestic human resources, it is permitted to accept foreign workers with a certain level of expertise and skills who can be immediately effective. At this time, four new “fields” will be added(Note 1): " Automobile transport," " Railway transport," "Forestry," and "Lumber", and new job categories will be added to three existing fields(Note 5): " Manufacture of industrial products (Note 2)," "Shipbuilding and ship machinery (Note 3)," and "Manufacture of food and beverages (Note 4)".

(Note 1) In addition to setting forth in the basic policy, field-specific operation policies are formulated.

(Note 2) The name has been changed from "Machine parts and tooling / Industrial machine/ Electric, electronics and information industries".

Seven new job categories (Paper container and cardboard box manufacturing, concrete product manufacturing, ceramic product manufacturing, textile product manufacturing, sewing, RPF manufacturing, printing and bookbinding) are added and prescribed in the field-specific operational policies.

In addition, the Further Notification will be issued to include new job categories related to steel, aluminum sash, plastic products, metal product coating, and bundling.

(Note 3) The six job categories have been reorganized into three and, the scope of work will be

expanded, and various types of work required for the shipbuilding and marine equipment industry will be added to the new job categories and prescribed in the field-specific operation policies and procedures.

(Note 4) The Further Notification is scheduled to be revised to add food departments of grocery supermarkets and general supermarkets as an establishment that are permitted to accept specified skilled workers.

(Note 5) With regard to the fields other than the "Shipbuilding and ship machinery," it will be possible to start accepting foreign workers from the effective date of the notice of the relevant ordinances and notification, such as the Ministerial Ordinance to Provide for Industrial Categories, etc. Prescribed in the Lower Column of the Specified Skilled Worker Program of the Table in Appended Table 1-2 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Ministry of Justice Ordinance No. 6 of March 15, 2019) and the Ministerial Ordinance to Establish Standards for Article 7, Paragraph 1, Item 2 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, and Specified Technical Skill Employment Contract and the Ministerial Ordinance to Provide for Criteria, etc. of the Support Plan for Specified Skilled Worker (i) (Ministry of Justice Notification No. 65 of March 15, 2019).