

Deputy PM: Flexi work visa regulations getting ready

Committee mulls including more professions, 20 professions already identified

● The Cabinet chaired by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, approved the new regulation last year

● The new regulations were approved based on feedbacks from the Shura and Representatives Councils and the Bahrain Chamber

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Works progressing fast to frame the regulatory standards to practice 20 professions aimed at optimising the work permit system in the Kingdom.

Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa said the committee, as directed by the cabinet, is continuing to develop standards for 20 identified professions.



The committee, Sheikh Mohammed said, is also looking at the possibility of including other professions, which the committee deems relevant to include in the regulatory framework.

Shaikh Mohammed was replying to a parliamentary question by MP Muhammad Issa.

The Cabinet chaired by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, had approved a new regulation last year in August for issuing the Flexible Work Permit. The permit, a cab-

inet statement said, aims at optimising the work permit system in the Kingdom to create more job opportunities for Bahrainis, make citizens the first choice of employment and preserve the right of workers.

The new regulations were approved based on feedbacks from the Shura and Representatives Councils and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI).

New procedures called for intensifying inspection to ensure that permit holders are not en-

gaging in activities other than permitted and take necessary legal action against violations. The cabinet statement also said those failing to comply are not allowed to apply for the Flexible Work Permit. Measures also include barring Flexible Work Permit holders from registering industrial motor vehicles.

At that time, the cabinet also said that a new committee consisting of members from various ministries would propose regulatory standards for 20 identified professions and share them with the Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training within two months.

Shaikh Mohammed said the committee held several meetings with the representatives of the Bahrain Chamber. "They expressed their views on the regulations and desire to add another profession."

He, however, said that the committee is yet to present its proposals to the Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training, as the com-

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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HIS HIGHNESS SHAIKH MOHAMMED BIN MUBARAK AL KHALIFA

What is the Flexi Permit?

A permit allowing you to live freely in the Kingdom of Bahrain and work in any non-specialized occupation without a sponsor for a renewable period of one or two years.

What are the Flexi Permit types?

Flexi Permit - This permit enables the holder to work in any non-specialized jobs and is not allowed to work in Restaurants, Salons and Hotels.

Flexi Hospitality Permit - This permit enables the holder to work in any non-specialized jobs and is allowed to work in Restaurants, Salons and Hotels (Requires a special medical test).

Who is eligible for Flexi Permit?

Expatriate employees with cancelled (terminated) work permits.
Expatriate employees with expired work permits*.
Expatriate employees who have not received their salaries and who have a case in the labor court.

How do I know whether I am eligible for a Flexi Permit?

Visit the Labor Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) website www.lmra.bh and use «Express Services» to check.
Contact the Call Centre number on 17 103 103
Send a text message containing only your ID (CPR) number to 33 150 150

What are the current Rules and Regulations of the Flexi Permit?

You should pay your monthly fees to avoid your permit being cancelled.
We advise you to have your Blue Card at all times.
You should not violate the Laws and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
Do not work in (Restaurants, Hotels, and Salons) unless you are Hospitality Flexi Permit holder.
No dependants are allowed under a Flexi Permit holder.

What are the Flexi Permit fees?

* The fees are according to the below schedule:

	Flexi Permit Fees (BD)	Health Care (BD)	Residence Extension for One Time* (BD)	Travel Ticket Insurance** (BD)	One -time Administrative fee	Total Fees(BD)
Issue for one year	250	72	15	90	5	432
Issue for two years	500	144	15	90	5	754
Renewal for one year	250	72	-	-	5	327
Renewal for two years	500	144	-	-	5	649

Courtesy of LMRA

Follow COVID-19 protocols, get vaccinated: Indian ambassador tells community members

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Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava yesterday called on the Indian community members to follow Bahrain's COVID-19 protocols and get vaccinated to support the Kingdom's battle against the deadly pandemic.

The call came as Piyush Srivastava interacted with the Indian community members during the Embassy's Open House held yesterday.

The virtual Open house dealt with urgent and non-routine consular and labour issues of the community members.

The ambassador briefed the participants about India's global contribution to the fight against the pandemic. "So far, India has supplied approximately 25 million 'Made in India' COVID vaccines to over 25 countries. Many



Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava during the Open House held yesterday

more are on the way. Bahrain was among the first countries to receive vaccines," Srivastava told the open house.

Srivastava further said the country is entering into its 2nd phase of vaccination on 1 March 2021 by vaccinating all above 60

years and 45 years with comorbidities.

The Indian ambassador also encouraged community mem-

bers to follow the website and social media accounts of the Indian Embassy for updates regarding pressing common issues.

To learn about India's travel-related information, use this link (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Guidelinesforinternationalarrivals17022021.pdf>)

The embassy resolved some of the grievances and is striving to resolve others at the earliest.

