

GUIDELINES

OCCUPATION / RESIDENCE PERMIT IN MAURITIUS



IMARA

Trust & Corporate Services

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guideline is to provide all the information governing the application for Occupation Permits and Residence Permits.

- The Occupation Permit (OP) is a combined work and residence permit which allows foreign nationals to work and reside in Mauritius under 3 specific categories namely:
 1. Investor
 2. Professional
 3. Self-Employed
- Foreign nationals, above the age of 50 years, may also choose to retire in Mauritius under a Residence Permit (RP).
- An OP or a RP is issued for a maximum period of three years and the permit holder may submit a new application at expiry of the permit.
- Dependents of an OP or RP holder may also apply for residence permits for a duration not exceeding that of the OP or RP holder.

2.0 CATEGORIES OF OCCUPATION / RESIDENCE PERMITS

2.1 Occupation Permit

There are 3 categories of OP under which a non-citizen can apply. The non-citizen should apply for an OP under the category which best reflects his nature of activities in the country.

2.1.1 INVESTOR

1. An Investor is defined as a shareholder and director in a company incorporated in Mauritius under the Companies Act 2001.
2. An Investor should make an initial transfer of USD 100,000 or its equivalent in freely convertible foreign currency in the account of the company under which the application will be made.
3. The business activity should generate an annual turnover of at least MUR2 million (approx.. USD 60,000) for the first year and cumulative turnover of at least MUR 10 million (approx. USD 300,000) for the subsequent two years.
4. A company may have more than one investor as defined above. However, the initial investment and annual turnover will be a multiple of the number of Investors in the company.
5. Existing investor operating but not registered with the board of Investment having a net asset value of at least USD 100,000 or its equivalent in freely convertible foreign currency and a cumulative turnover of MUR 12 million during the preceding 3 years with a turnover of at least MUR 2 million in any one year.
6. Beneficiary, an individual who has inherited a business, in case of death or incapacity of the previous investor provided that the net asset value of the business is at least USD 100,000 or its equivalent in freely convertible foreign currency and a cumulative turnover of MUR 12 million with a turnover of at least MUR 2 million in any one year.

2.1.1.1 INVESTOR - MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

An Investor wishing to bring in high-tech machinery and equipment as part of the investment of USD 100,000, must transfer a minimum of USD 25,000 or its equivalent in freely convertible foreign currency and the remaining balance in terms of high-tech machinery and equipment. The following criteria must be satisfied to be eligible under the scheme:

- i. The high-tech machinery and equipment will be evaluated based on the invoice issued by the supplier and a report from a recognized Chartered Valuator.
- ii. In case the high-tech machinery and equipment is yet to be shipped to Mauritius, the investor should submit the bill of lading to the Occupation Permit Unit at time of submission of the application.
- iii. Investment in high-tech machinery and equipment must be in a qualifying activity including but not limited to Agro-Industry, Aquaculture, Healthcare, ICT-BPO, Fin-tech, Life Sciences, Biotechnology, Manufacturing, Ocean Economy and Renewable Energy.

Note:

1. Should the value of the high-tech machinery and equipment be less than that submitted on the invoice and bill of lading when evaluated by the Custom Department in Mauritius, the investor should transfer the remaining balance in a freely convertible foreign currency.
2. The high-tech machinery and equipment must be used for the proposed business activity.
3. The application under this category must be submitted online through Channel A (Approval in Principle). The OP application system can be accessed from the link: <http://op.investmauritius.com>. The application process will follow the same steps as Section 3.1, Channel A.

2.1.1.2 INVESTOR - INNOVATOR OCCUPATION PERMIT

In its quest to achieve the status of high-income economy, the Government of Mauritius is reiterating its support to investors conducting Research and Development (R&D) in highly innovative sectors. The Innovator Occupation Permit is geared towards companies having a consequential Research & Development component as part of the total operational expenditure but with low gearing with respect to capital requirements. To attract these low capital intensive start-ups and innovators, applicants eligible to apply under the scheme will be required to make an initial investment of USD 40,000 or its equivalent in freely convertible currency.

Eligibility

- i. The scheme applies to companies conducting R&D in qualifying sectors including but not limited to life and health sciences, technology, ICT, Fintech, biotechnology, Nano technology, light manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and design.
- ii. The R&D expense component should constitute of at least 20% of total operational expenditure during the research phase.
- iii. The Board of Investment will assess, on a case-to-case basis, each project on its own merit to determine its eligibility to the scheme.
- iv. The business plan should clearly depict all expenditures related to R&D activities.
- v. Yearly audited accounts should clearly identify R&D expenditure and any deviation from initial expenditures stated in the business plan.

Qualifying Expenditures

The following costs may qualify as Research and Development:

- i. Direct R&D staff costs
- ii. Subcontracted R&D costs
- iii. Externally provided R&D staff
- iv. Clinical trial volunteer costs
- v. Prototypes
- vi. Software directly used in R&D
- vii. Consumable items
- viii. Any other expenditure deemed to have been incurred with the prospect of gaining new scientific or technical knowledge and understanding.

For greater clarity, the following costs will not be considered as R&D expenditure:

- i. The production and distribution of goods and services
- ii. Capital expenditure.
- iii. The cost of land
- iv. Expenditures incurred for the use and the creation of patents and trademarks, as these are the cost of protecting the completed R&D.

Application Process

The application must be submitted online through Channel A (Approval in Principle). The OP application system can be accessed from the link:

<http://op.investmauritius.com>. The application process will follow the same steps as Section 3.1, Channel A.

Note:

It would be on the onus of the promoter to provide for precise, comprehensive and reliable information on its qualifying activities and the Board of Investment reserves the right to accept or reject qualifying R&D expenditures based on sound interpretation of the innovative and added value aspects of the project.

2.1.2 PROFESSIONAL

1. A Professional, as defined under the Immigration Act, is an expatriate employed by a company incorporated in Mauritius to deliver professional services.
2. A Professional should earn a basic monthly salary exceeding MUR 60,000 (approx. USD 1,800). However, the basic monthly salary for Professionals in the ICT Sector should exceed MUR 30,000 (USD 900).

2.1.3 SELF-EMPLOYED

1. A Self-Employed is defined as a non-citizen engaged in a professional activity registered with the Registrar of Businesses under the Business Registration Act 2002.
2. A Self-Employed operates a one-person business, working exclusively for his/her own account.
3. A Self-Employed should make an initial transfer of USD 35,000 or its equivalent in freely convertible foreign currency to his/her local bank account in Mauritius.
4. The business activity should generate an annual income exceeding MUR 600,000 in the first 2 years and MUR 1,200,000 as from the third year.

2.1.4 RESIDENCE PERMIT AS RETIRED NON-CITIZEN

The criteria for applying for a Residence Permit as a Retired Non-Citizen is as follows:

1. A Retired Non-Citizen is defined as a person who is not a citizen of Mauritius and aged 50 years or above.
2. A Retired Non-Citizen should make an initial transfer of at least USD 2,500 or its equivalent in freely convertible foreign currency to his/her local bank account in Mauritius.
3. Thereafter, the Retired Non-Citizen should transfer at least USD 2,500 monthly or a sum by instalments amounting to at least USD 30,000 annually, during a period of 3 years.
4. At the end of each year, the Retired Non-Citizen should submit to the Board of Investment, evidence of transfer of funds into his/her local bank account.

3.0 APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for Occupation or Residence Permits are submitted to the Occupation Permit Unit (OPU) which is managed jointly by the Board of Investment (BOI) and the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO).

Modes of application

Channel A

Eligibility: 1. Investor 2. Self-Employed 3. Retired Non-citizen

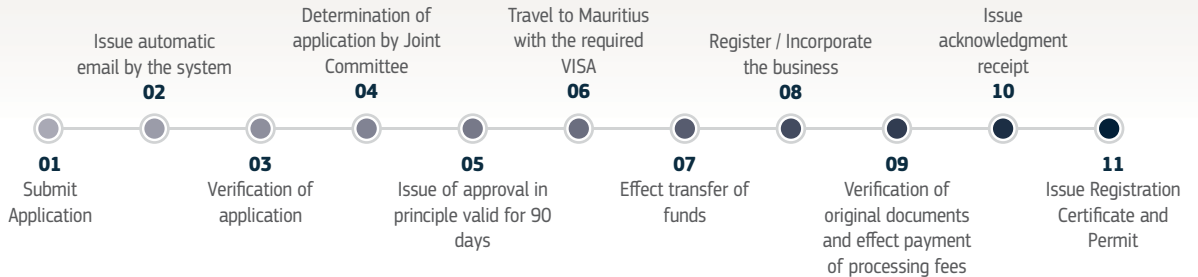
- Submission of application without prior registration of business, incorporation of company or transfer of funds.
- Successful applicants will first be issued with an Approval in principle.
- The non-citizen will only be required to travel to Mauritius after the issue of the Approval in Principle.
- Upon satisfying established conditions, the Occupation or Residence Permit will be issued.

Channel B

Eligibility: 1. Investor 2. Professional 3. Self-Employed 4. Retired Non-citizen

- Non-citizens applying under the Professional category should ensure that they hold a valid contract of employment prior to submission of the application.

3.1 CHANNEL A



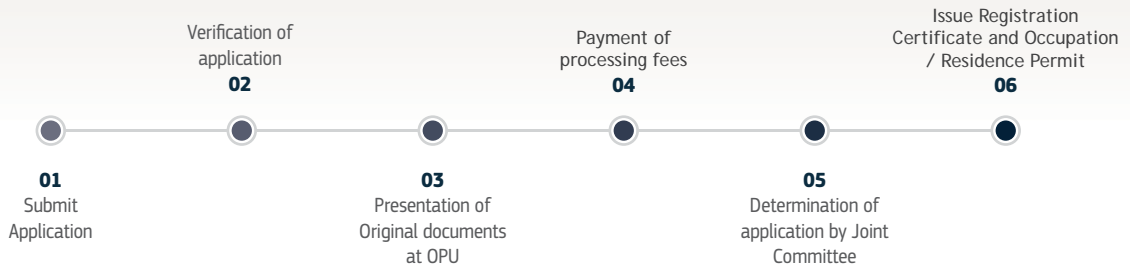
The steps are as follows:

- The application is submitted online. The OP application system can be accessed from the link: <http://op.investmauritius.com>. The applicant can refer to the user manual for any additional information on using the online system.
- At the time of application, all the documents mentioned in the checklist should be submitted. (Investor: Refer to Section 4.1, Self-Employed: Refer to Section 4.2, Retired Non-Citizen: Refer to Section 4.3).
- On submission of the application, the applicant will receive an automatic acknowledgement email.
- The Occupation Permit Unit (OPU) will then validate the application and in case of any missing information, an email will be sent to request for clarifications and documents.
- A Joint Committee comprising of the Prime Minister's office (PMO), the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO) and BOI, will evaluate the application based on the eligibility criteria, Government's policies and the business plan submitted in case of Investor and Self-Employed.
- For specific applications, views are requested from relevant public sector agencies in line with their policies.
- Upon approval of the PMO, the BOI will issue an Approval in Principle to the applicant which will be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of issue, with a copy to the PIO and PMO.
- In case the application has not been recommended, the applicant will be informed accordingly and will be able to request for reconsideration of the case only once.
- Within the period of 90 days, non-citizens will have to complete the following procedures:
 - Investor: Registration of business and incorporation of a company
 - Self Employed: Registration of business
 - Transfer funds as committed in application form;
 - Apply for regulatory licences and obtain required licences or letter of intent, as the case may be;
 - Travel to Mauritius and complete the medical examination (refer to the template Medical certificate at annex).
- Upon completing the above procedures, the applicant should schedule an appointment with the OPU for validation of original documents, personal identification and effect payment as defined in section 6. The applicant is required to produce the original documents as listed in the checklist (Investor: Refer to Section 4.1, Self-Employed: Refer to Section 4.2, Retired Non-Citizen: Refer to Section 4.3). The documents will be verified by both the Passport and Immigration Office and the Board of Investment. The applicant (Investor, Self Employed, Retired Non-Citizen) will be required to sign on page 3, whereas for Professional page 3 and 4 (undertaking Section 5) on the application form submitted through the OP Online System.
- The Occupation Permit Unit will ensure that the applicant has submitted all the required documents as per the checklist and will issue a Document Receipt. The applicant will be then registered with the Board of Investment.
- The applicant should personally collect the Occupation Permit at the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO Delivery Section). His/ her passport, the document receipt and the approval in principle should be presented at the time of collection.

Note:

- Applicants are advised to complete all procedures within the 90 days. After this period, the Approval in Principle will lapse.
- If ever the Visa (Business Visas for Professionals, Investors and self-employed, and tourist visa for retired non – citizens) has expired, the applicant should leave the Mauritius and wait for validation outside Mauritius.
- Applicants should ensure that they have the appropriate travel document and visa, where necessary, prior to travelling to Mauritius. The Approval in Principle does not give de facto right for a visa to enter Mauritius. Applicants may refer to the following link for visa requirements in Mauritius.

3.2 CHANNEL B



The process for submission of an application is as follows:

1. The application is submitted online. The OP application system can be accessed from the link: <http://op.investmauritius.com>. The applicant can refer to the user manual for any additional information on using the online system.
2. At time of application, all the documents mentioned in the checklist should be uploaded. (Investor: Refer to Section 4.1, Self-Employed: Refer to Section 4.2, Retired Non-Citizen: Refer to Section 4.3, Professional: Refer to Sector 4.4).
3. On submission of the application, the applicant will receive an automatic acknowledgement email.
4. The OPU will validate the application and in case of any missing information, an email will be sent to request for additional documents.
5. The applicant is required to call in person at the OPU for validation of his documents. He/ She may make a prior appointment with the OPU. The OPU is situated on the 4th Floor, Sterling House, Lislet Geoffroy Street, Port Louis. (Please refer to the annexed map)
6. The applicant is required to bring along the original documents as listed in the checklist (Investor: Refer to Section 4.1, Self-Employed: Refer to Section 4.2, Retired Non-Citizen: Refer to Section 4.3) Professional: Refer to Sector 4.4. The documents will be verified by both the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO) and the Board of Investment (BOI). The applicant will be required to sign on the Application form submitted through the OP Online System.
7. If the application is complete, a Document Receipt will be issued by the BOI.
8. Once the application is assessed by the Joint Committee and approved by the Prime Minister's Office, the applicant will be registered with BOI and the Occupation or Residence Permit will be issued by PIO.
9. The applicant should personally collect the Occupation Permit at the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO Delivery Section). His/ her passport and BOI's document receipt should be presented at time of collection.
10. It is advisable that the applicant contacts the PIO after five working days following issue of Document Receipt to verify if the Occupation Permit is ready for collection.

3.3 APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PROFESSIONALS

- Non-Citizens under a contract of employment with a company based in Mauritius should submit an application for an OP as professional
- The Employer is required to sign the Undertaking as per section 5 of the Occupation Permit application form.
- An application for a Professional is submitted by the Employer, either the Director or HR representative, on behalf of the Professional. Applications should follow the procedures described in Channel B.
- The non-citizen Professional should be accompanied by the Employer, either the Director or HR representative, for validation of the documents at the Occupation Permit Unit.
- This application is determined according to established criteria and Government policies in place.
- Where applicable, Professionals should ensure eligibility to register with the approved professional body prior to submission of application.
- Views from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life are sought for all applications related to the medical field. Similarly, views from the Ministry of Tourism and External Communication are sought for all tourism-related applications which are not covered under the list of scarcity areas as per the policy adopted by the Ministry.

The list of policies can be consulted on the following link:

- http://op.investmauritius.com/Download/Communicate_MoTEC.pdf
- http://op.investmauritius.com/Download/Scarcity_Area_Medical.pdf

Note:

In cases, where it is mandatory for an applicant to be registered by the relevant professional body, the Board of Investment will not be held accountable under any circumstances for any delay or inability to be registered.

Short term Occupation Permit

Professionals working for a period of less than one year in Mauritius may apply for a Short-term Occupation Permit. Under the Short-term Occupation Permit, Professionals can work and reside in Mauritius for a period not exceeding 9 months. The permit may be extended only once for a period not exceeding 3 months.

4.0 CHECKLISTS

4.1 Investor

ONLINE DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED BY INVESTOR

	CHANNEL A	CHANNEL B	
		NEW	RENEWAL
1. Certificate of Incorporation		✓	✓
2. Business Registration Card		✓	✓
3. Shareholding Structure (consent of shareholder & director) * Updated one if any changes was made		✓	✓
4. Detailed Business Plan	✓	✓	
5. Appropriate licences/ approval/ letter of intent for regulated activities (GBL,TEL,TEC, etc.)		✓	✓
6. Investment (evidence of transfer of funds from abroad in a local bank account of the company)		✓	
7. Birth Certificate (English or French)	✓	✓	
8. Marriage Certificate / Divorce certificate (English or French), if applicable	✓	✓	
9. Passport - Bio-data. Last entry visa pages (if applicant is already in Mauritius)	✓	✓	✓
10. Four identical recent colour passport size photographs of 4.5cm x 3.5cm (less than six months old)		✓	✓
11. Signed undertaking		✓	✓
12. Medical certificate and reports (less than six months old)		✓	✓
13. Processing fee (Bank Draft/Cheque) drawn to the order of the Government of Mauritius (refer to item 6)		✓	✓
14. Copy of Occupation Permit / Work / Residence Permit (if applicable)		✓	✓

4.0 CHECKLISTS

4.1 Investor

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS TO BE PRESENTED AT OPU INVESTOR

	CHANNEL A	CHANNEL B	
		NEW	RENEWAL
1. Certificate of Incorporation	✓	✓	✓
2. Business Registration Card	✓	✓	✓
3. Shareholding Structure (consent of shareholder & director) * Updated one if any changes was made	✓	✓	✓
4. Detailed Business Plan		✓	
5. Appropriate licences/ approval/ letter of intent for regulated activities (GBL,TEL,TEC, etc.)	✓	✓	✓
6. Investment (evidence of transfer of funds from abroad in a local bank account of the company)	✓	✓	
7. Birth Certificate (English or French)	✓	✓	
8. Marriage Certificate / Divorce certificate (English or French), if applicable	✓	✓	
9. Passport - Bio-data. Last entry visa pages (if applicant is already in Mauritius)	✓	✓	✓
10. Four identical recent colour passport size photographs of 4.5cm x 3.5cm (less than six months old)	✓	✓	✓
11. Signed undertaking	✓	✓	✓
12. Medical certificate and reports (less than six months old)	✓	✓	✓
13. Processing fee (Bank Draft/Cheque) drawn to the order of the Government of Mauritius (refer to item 6)	✓	✓	✓

4.0 CHECKLISTS

4.2 Self Employed

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED SELF-EMPLOYED

	CHANNEL A	CHANNEL B	
		NEW	RENEWAL
1. Business Registration Card		✓	✓
2. Detailed Business Plan	✓	✓	
3. Contracts and letters of intent from potential clients (min. of 2)	✓	✓	
4. Licence from professional/regulatory body, if applicable		✓	✓
5. Original Academic and Professional qualifications or true certified copies by competent Authority in English or French	✓	✓	
6. Curriculum Vitae	✓	✓	
7. Investment (evidence of transfer of funds from abroad in the applicant's local bank account)		✓	
8. Birth Certificate (English or French)	✓	✓	
9. Marriage Certificate/ Divorce certificate (English or French), if applicable	✓	✓	
10. Passport - Bio-data. Last entry visa pages (if applicant is already in Mauritius)	✓	✓	✓
11. Four identical recent colour passport size photographs of 4.5cm x 3.5cm (less than six months old)		✓	✓
12. Signed undertaking		✓	✓
13. Medical certificate and reports (less than six months old)		✓	✓
14. Copy of Occupation Permit/ Work/ Residence Permit (if applicable)		✓	✓
15. Processing fee (Bank Draft/ Cheque) drawn to the order of the Government of Mauritius. (refer to item 6)		✓	✓

4.0 CHECKLISTS

4.3 Retired Non-Citizen

ONLINE DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED BY RETIRED NON-CITIZEN

	CHANNEL A	CHANNEL B	
		NEW	RENEWAL
1. Evidence of transfer of funds from abroad in the local bank account of the retired non-citizen		✓	✓
2. A Morality Certificate / Certificate of good character/ Police clearance covering the last ten years. The document should not be more than six months' old. <i>* Morality certificate for the last 3 years issued in Mauritius</i>	✓	✓	✓
3. Birth Certificate (English or French)	✓	✓	
4. Marriage Certificate / Divorce Certificate (English or French), if applicable	✓	✓	
5. Passport - Bio-data. Last entry visa pages (if applicant is already in Mauritius)	✓	✓	✓
6. Four Identical recent colour passport size photographs of 4.5cm x 3.5cm (less than six months old)		✓	✓
7. Signed undertaking		✓	✓
8. Medical certificate and reports (less than six months old)		✓	
9. Copy of Residence Permit			✓
10. Processing fee (Bank Draft/Cheque) drawn to the order of the Government of Mauritius (refer to item 6)		✓	✓

4.0 CHECKLISTS

4.3 Retired Non-Citizen

ONLINE DOCUMENTS TO BE PRESENTED AT OPU RETIRED NON-CITIZEN

	CHANNEL A	CHANNEL B	
		NEW	RENEWAL
1. Evidence of transfer of funds from abroad in the local bank account of the retired non-citizen	✓	✓	✓
2. A Morality Certificate / Certificate of good character / Police clearance covering the last ten years. The document should not be more than six months' old. <i>* Morality certificate for the last 3 years issued in Mauritius.</i>	✓	✓	✓
3. Birth Certificate (English or French)	✓	✓	
4. Marriage Certificate / Divorce Certificate (English or French), if applicable	✓	✓	
5. Passport - Bio-data. Last entry visa pages (if applicant is already in Mauritius)	✓	✓	✓
6. Four Identical recent colour passport size photographs of 4.5cm x 3.5cm (less than six months old)	✓	✓	✓
7. Signed undertaking	✓	✓	
8. Medical certificate and reports (less than six months old)	✓		✓
9. Processing fee (Bank Draft/Cheque) drawn to the order of the Government of Mauritius (refer to item 6)	✓	✓	✓

4.0 CHECKLISTS

4.4 Professional

ONLINE DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED PROFESSIONAL /
SAME DOCUMENTS TO BE PRESENTED IN ORIGINAL AT OPU

	NEW	RENEWAL
In relation to the Professional non-citizen		
1. Contract of employment and detailed Job description	✓	✓
2. Original Academic and Professional qualifications or true certified copies by competent Authority in English or French	✓	✓
3. CV of Professional, referral letters from previous employers / attestations	✓	✓
4. Birth Certificate (English or French)	✓	
5. Marriage Certificate/ Divorce certificate (English or French), if applicable	✓	
6. Passport - Bio-data. Last entry visa pages (if applicant is already in Mauritius)	✓	✓
7. Page 3 and page 4: signed undertaking Section 5	✓	✓
In relation to the Employer (company)		
8. Certificate of Incorporation of Company and Business Registration Card	✓	✓
9. Appropriate licence for the company and / for the Professional if applicable (GBL, TEL, TEC/ Pilot Licence etc.)	✓	✓
10. A comprehensive brief on the activities of the company	✓	✓
11. Updated Shareholding structure (consent of director and shareholder)		✓
12. Copy of previous Occupation Permit / Work / Residence Permit (if applicable)	✓	✓
13. Four identical recent colour passport size photographs of 4.5cm x 3.5cm (less than six months old)	✓	✓
14. Medical certificate and reports (less than six months old)	✓	
15. Processing fee (Bank Draft/Cheque) drawn to the order of the Government of Mauritius (refer to item 6)	✓	✓

5.0 SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS

After three years or at time of expiry of the permit and subject to the criteria defined in the schedule, section 2 and 12 of the Investment Promotion Act being met, the OP/RP permit holder may apply for the renewal of the Permit to the BOI. Short-term Occupation Permit holders can apply for an extension of his/her permit only once, for a period not exceeding 3 months. The second application should be submitted at least one month prior to expiry of the permit. The application is made through the OP online application system and the documents as defined in the checklist should be submitted together with the application form.

Note:

There is no automatic renewal of the Occupation or Residence Permit. Each application will be determined based on the guidelines and Government policies in force at the time of application.

6.0 APPLICATION FEES

For both Channel A and Channel B, the payment is effected at time of presentation of original documents for validation at the Occupation Permit Unit. Payment should be effected by bank cheque made to the order of the Government of Mauritius.

Category	Application fee (MUR)
Investor/ Self Employed/ Retired Non-Citizen	20,000
Professional in respect of a contract of employment	
a) Up to 2 years	15,000
b) More than 2 years but not exceeding 3 years	20,000
Short-term Occupation Permit (Period not exceeding 9 months)	10,000
Extension of Short-term Occupation Permit only once for a period not exceeding 3 months	5,000
Dependents of Occupation or Residence Permit holder	5,000 per dependent

7.0 DEPENDENTS

The Dependents of an Occupation or Residence Permit holders are eligible to apply for a residence permit. Dependents are defined as spouse (including Common Law Partner of the opposite sex) and children, including step children or lawfully adopted children, under 24 years of age.

Application for a Residence Permit for Dependents is made to and determined by the Passport and Immigration Office as follows:

1. Application to enter Mauritius form to be filled by the main applicant (holder of the Occupation/ Resident permit). Common-Law-Partners and children over the age of 18 should fill in the application form themselves.
2. The following documents should be submitted:
 - a. Passport details and valid visa. If the visa is not valid, the application will not be processed.
 - b. Birth Certificate.
 - c. Full Birth Certificate for Children.
 - d. Marriage Certificate or Certificate of cohabitation ('Certificat de concubinage').
 - e. Four identical recent colour passport size photographs of 4.5cm x 3.5cm (less than six months old).
 - f. Medical Certificate with original reports of required tests that are less than six months old. For children aged less than 12, only a medical certificate is required. Refer to the template Medical certificate.
 - g. For lawfully adopted children, the document certifying adoption and for step children, a certified letter of consent from biological parent should be submitted.
 - h. Application fees of MUR 5,000 payable to the Government of Mauritius per dependent. The dependent should ensure that he/she has a valid tourist visa. If the visa is not valid, the application will not be processed. In case the dependents wish to work in Mauritius, they need to apply either for a work permit or an occupation permit, as the case may be.

- g. For lawfully adopted children, the document certifying adoption and for step children, a certified letter of consent from biological parent should be submitted.
- h. Application fees of MUR 5,000 payable to the Government of Mauritius per dependent. The dependent should ensure that he/she has a valid tourist visa. If the visa is not valid, the application will not be processed. In case the dependents wish to work in Mauritius, they need to apply either for a work permit or an occupation permit, as the case may be.

8.0 MONITORING

The BOI in collaboration with the Passport and Immigration Office and the Mauritius Revenue Authority, shall carry out monitoring exercises, including but not limited to site visits and information requested from other agencies, to ensure that the permit holder is compliant with established rules and guidelines.

If at any time, the employer decides to change the terms and conditions of the contract of employment of the Professional OP holder which will affect the initial eligibility criteria, the employer should inform the BOI forthwith. Non-compliant permit holders may be deregistered by the Board of Investment as per Section 15 of the Investment Promotion Act and their Occupation Permit subsequently cancelled by Passport and Immigration Office.

9.0 CANCELLATION OF OCCUPATION PERMIT

If at any time, the Occupation Permit holder (Investor, Self-employed) / Residence permit holder (Retired non-citizen) decides to leave Mauritius, he/she should immediately give notice in writing thereof to the Managing Director (BOI) for deregistration and return the originals of the Occupation Permit/ Residence Permit and Occupation Permit Card to the Passport and Immigration Office.

If at any time, the employer terminates the contract of employment of a Professional Occupation Permit holder, the employer should immediately inform in writing the BOI and the PIO forthwith.

10.0 APPEALS

In case the application is not approved, applicants are able to make an appeal only once. If the visa (business for professional, investors and self-employed and tourist visas for retired non-citizens) expires before the appeal, the applicants have to leave Mauritius and wait for validation outside Mauritius. The applicant should ensure his visa is valid during the time that the appeal is being determined. The applicant should make an extension of his visa at the Passport and Immigration Office if otherwise.

11.0 PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT

As a holder of an Occupation or Residence Permit, a foreign national is eligible to apply for a 10-year Residence Permit provided specific conditions are met.

- Investor: The aggregate turnover should exceed MUR 45 million for the 3 years' period.
- Professional: The basic monthly salary should exceed MUR 150,000 for 3 consecutive years.
- Self-Employed: The business Income of the applicant should exceed MUR 3 million per annum for the 3 consecutive years.
- Retired Non – Citizen: A Retired Non – Citizen who has made a transfer of USD 40,000 annually to his/her local bank for 3 consecutive years.
- A foreign national who has invested a minimum of USD 500,000 into a qualifying activity is also eligible for the 10-year residence permit. Qualifying activities are Agro-based industry, Audio-visual, Cinema and Communication, Banking, Construction, Education, Environment-friendly and green energy products, Financial Services, Fisheries and Marine Resources, Freeport, Information Technology, Infrastructure, Insurance, Leisure, Manufacturing, Marina development, Tourism and Warehousing, Initial Public Offerings.

12.0 ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

Acquisition of business property

The process to acquire a property for business purposes can be consulted from the acquisition of property guideline.

Acquisition of residential property

- The Non-Citizens (Property Restriction) Act has been amended in December 2016 to allow foreigners to purchase apartments in condominium developments of at least two levels above ground (G+2) with the prior approval of the Board of Investment, provided the purchase price of an apartment is not less than MUR 6 million or its equivalent in any other hard convertible foreign currency.
- Any non-citizen, with or without an occupation permit, residence permit, permanent residence permit, may acquire apartments.
- The process to acquire a property for residential purposes can be consulted from the acquisition of apartment guideline.

13.0 OTHER INFORMATION

Entering Mauritius

- Foreign nationals entering Mauritius need to be in possession of a valid travel document beyond their proposed period of stay.
- Prior to travelling to Mauritius, the non-citizen should ensure compliance with visa requirements in Mauritius. Applicants may refer to the following link for visa requirements in Mauritius.
- Applicants of an Occupation Permit as Investor, Professional and Self Employed should request for a business visa on their arrival into the country for a minimum period of one month.
- Applicants for a Residence Permit in the case of Retired non-citizen should request for a tourist visa on their arrival into the country for a minimum period of one month.
- Applicants issued with an approval in principle, shall also apply for the appropriate visa prior to coming to Mauritius.
- All Dependents should request for a tourist visa on their arrival into the country for a minimum period of one month.
- At time of submission of application, the business visa should be valid for at least fifteen days.
- Passport holders of countries requiring a visa to enter Mauritius should apply and obtain the business visa prior to undertaking their travel.

Submission of application

- The Birth Certificate should either be in English or French. If not, a certified/sworn translated copy by a competent authority should be submitted.
- The name on the passport should be exactly the same as on the birth certificate. If not identical, a certificate from the respective Consulate/Embassy/High Commission or an affidavit sworn in the country of origin/residence could be submitted certifying that the names appearing on the birth certificate and passport are for the 'one and same person'.
- Only complete applications accompanied by all required documents will be processed.
- A Post Office Box (PO-Box) address is not acceptable as a residential or business address.
- If there is evidence that an applicant suffers from any infectious or contagious disease, his/her application for an RP/OP would not be accepted.
- Applicants should be aware that in case of a negative certificate character/ morality or police report, they will not be eligible to apply for an OP/RP.

Holders of Occupation/ Residence permits

- The Permit Holder should at all times ensure that he/she complies with existing rules and regulations pertaining to his status.
- The Investor should ensure the company obtains the relevant permits and licenses prior to starting their business activity. They should also comply with conditions of regulated activities.
- The Self Employed should ensure that he/she has duly registered with professional bodies where required.
- The Occupation/Residence Permit is not transferable.
- OP holders and/or their employers should immediately notify the Passport and Immigration Office and BOI in writing of any change in their particulars inclusive of business and residential address and any change in the contract of employment (e.g. salary reduction/increase).

Disclaimer

These guidelines may be subject to changes without notice and should not, in any circumstances, be treated as a legally binding document. Any other information or document not listed above may be requested depending on the application.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure that the information provided herein is accurate and correct at the time of publication, users of this publication are advised to seek guidance from the Board of Investment in case of uncertainty or ambiguity encountered in reading this manual. The Board of Investment shall, in no circumstances whatsoever, be held liable to any person, for any issue, arising from the use of information contained herein.

14.0 ANNEX MEDICAL

Medical Certificate

All non-citizens are required to do a set of compulsory medical tests as set out below:

1. Blood tests for:
 - a. Haemoglobin and Full Blood Count;
 - b. Hepatitis B Surface Antigen;
 - c. Anti HIV screening test for AIDS;
 - d. VDRL test
 - e. Urine tests for albumin and sugar;
 - f. Stool test for parasites;
 - g. Chest x-ray
 - h. Lymphatic Filariasis
 - i. Leprosy
2. Leprosy test is restricted to Indian nationals only, where the consulting Doctor should add on the Medical Certificate that the person is not suffering from Leprosy.
3. Lymphatic Filariasis test is required only to non-citizens coming from: India, Bangladesh, Madagascar, Brazil, Comoros, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda & Vietnam.

Out of these tests, the following three tests should compulsorily be done in Mauritius: (i) Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, (ii) HIV and (iii) Chest x-ray.

These tests may be done at any private local medical laboratory or clinic registered with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. Indicative list of private clinics and laboratories are annexed.

The remaining tests may be done in the applicant's country before coming to Mauritius or in Mauritius itself.

Some key notes:

- All the tests results should be submitted to a local doctor who will issue a medical certificate after an examination. The medical certificate and the reports for the three tests done in Mauritius (HIV, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen and chest x-ray) must be submitted at time of application.
- No application for Occupation Permit will be accepted if there is evidence that the applicant is suffering from any infectious or contagious disease.
- Medical tests should have been done no longer than six months before date of submitting an application.
- The chest x-ray should be signed by a radiologist.
- Children who are below 12 years will have to submit a Medical Certificate after undergoing a clinical examination. Appropriate medical investigations including a Chest x-ray and blood test should be carried out only if required by the doctor.

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