

Services,” from 1 or 3 years to 3 months, 1 year or 3 years. For entertainers it will be 15 days, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year or 3 years. There will be no change for Technical Intern Training. For “Student” it will be 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, 1 year & 3 months, 2 years, 2 years & 3 months, 3 years, 3 years & 3 months, 4 years or 4 years & 3 months.

4. What should I do with my present Alien Registration Card?

For the time being the Alien Registration Card is valid until your visa expires. So even if the implementation date (July 9) comes you need not do anything. After this, you can apply to any Regional Immigration Bureau for visa extension, change of status and change for residence card. As of Jan. 13 application is being accepted at any Immigration Bureau Office.

5. What happens to permanent residents’ duration of stay?

Permanent residents can apply for a residence card at the Local Immigration Bureau within 3 years starting July 9, 2012. This applies for both cases; either confirmation period of issuance within 3 years or more than 3 years. You may go to the Local Immigration Bureau for application of issuance and replacement of the new residence card. Failure to replace the card within 3 years will face imprisonment of less than a year or be fined up to ¥200,000. If imprisonment will be imposed, deportation will be executed.

6. What to do if a resident is below 16 years old?

If the permanent holder is below years old, replacement of residence card is within 3 years from the implementation date or until his/her 16th birthday, whichever comes first. But in cases of persons other than permanent residents of less than 16 years old, replacement of a residence card will be the expiration date of period of stay or until his/her 16th birthday, whichever comes first. For either case, you may access to the Local Immigration Bureau for application of issuance and replacement of new residence card.

7. What to do if a person is currently living in a different address registered in Alien Registration Card?

Starting from May 7, 2012 (reference date), in order to register in Basic Resident Register, the municipal office will send out a provisional resident record to foreign national residents’ address. Thus, we recommend you to change your address in the alien card within the given duration. Change of residence should be done before the implementation date (July 9th, 2012).

8. Should a residence card be personally applied at the Local Immigration Bureau?

Basically, the applicant must go personally to the Immigration Bureau. But in cases of persons under 16 years old or those with illnesses etc., the family living with him/her must act as his/her representative. You can also ask an attorney or immigration lawyer to represent you.

9. What is the procedure after the issuance of a residence card?

You must always carry your residence card just like before with your alien residence card. You are required to present your residence card whenever asked by an Immigration or Police Officer. Its difference from alien registration card is the “restrictions on work” being printed in the middle part of the card. Thus, an employee may refer to your residence card in terms of your employment.

10. How long is the validity of the residence card?

- For permanent residents, the validity is 7 years from the date of issuance.
- For permanent residents below 16 years old, it is until his/her 16th birthday.
- For persons other than permanent residents, it is the expiration date of the period of his/her stay.
- The date of validity will be printed in the residence card.

11. How to notify any change of information in the residence card?

Notification for change of residence must be turned into the counter of the new municipal office within 14 days after relocation. Other than change of residence, notification of changes must be reported to the local immigration office. Be cautious that failure to do so is punishable by imprisonment of not more than a year or a fine not exceeding ¥200,000. Especially, if you failed to notify within 90 days of relocation without any legitimate reason, the resident status may be withdrawn. However, legitimate reasons, such as hospitalization may be given consideration.

12. Is notification for change in affiliation such as work place or school necessary?

- For employees with engineers, specialist in humanities/international services, technical training; if there are changes in affiliation’s name or address and activities you are engaged you need to report them. For trainee; if there are changes in affiliation’s name or address and activities you are engaged you need to report them. For student; if there are changes in school’s name or address you need to report them but need not report the activities.
- Not necessary for permanent residents and long-term residents since they have no limit to reside and engage in any activity.

- Not necessary for spouses of Japanese nationals and spouses of permanent residents. However, if you are working, the employer will submit the employment status.

13. What other changes should I be cautious other than change of residence?

In the event of divorce or death of the spouse, spouse of Japanese national and spouse of permanent residents must report within 14 days or be fined of not exceeding ¥200,000. The same thing applies to those who have a status of designated activities or with a visiting relative status.

14. What must be done in case a “status of residence” is withdrawn?

- (1) For medium and long term resident make sure to notify within 90 days of relocation otherwise your visa will be revoked. This only applies for people without any valid reasons. There are some cases that may be given a special consideration like, if the company that you worked with has gone bankrupt and lost the place to live, have been hospitalized for a long period or a DV victim and doesn't want to reveal the address.
- (2) For spouse of Japanese national and spouse of permanent resident, if the marriage is not based on reality for more than 6 months, your status of residence will be withdrawn. However, consideration will be given if there is any legitimate reason such as mediation of child custody or divorce proceedings concerning the culpability of Japanese spouse. Also, “spouse of Japanese national” or “spouse of permanent residents,” may have a considerable means in changing resident status or have a chance for a permanent visa. For example, if you are a DV victim and a parent of a Japanese citizen, you may be permitted to change your status to a “long-term” resident.”

15. What is “*minashi sanyukoku* (special permit system)”?

With the new revision, those who will return to Japan within a year may just present residence card and ED (Embarkation/Disembarkation) card upon departure. Select the “embark with a special permit system” in the card. If your present visa expires less than a year from your departure, you need to re-enter before that date. Take note that *minashi sanyukoku* could not be extended. If re-entry is more than a year, a re-entry permit is required. The maximum period of re-entry permit is 5 years. However, foreigners with “North Korean” and “state-less” status are not allowed to re-enter Japan with a special permit system.

16. What is *Jyumin Kihon Daicho* (Basic Resident Register)?

In the past, a Residency Management System called Basic Resident Register was required only to Japanese nationals. With the revision, all members of inter-cultural marriages will be listed in resident certificate as one household. Any foreign resident

can also be the head of a household. Aside from a resident card, you may register your name with an alias. This Basic Resident Register is the basis for public services in municipal offices such as national health system and child allowance.

17. What kind of procedure needed for Basic Resident Register?

There is no certain procedure. Starting May 7, 2012 municipal office will send out provisional resident record to foreign residents based on alien registration in order to complete the Basic Resident Register. Thus, you need to clarify your alien card preliminarily. Provisional resident record will be transferred in the resident card starting on the implementation date (July 9, 2012).

18. Is there a need to notify the local government office after acquiring a renewed visa?

After renewing the visa at the Immigration Office, there is no need to notify the local government office. Only when there are changes in information in the Basic Resident Register that need to notify the municipal office.

19. What should I be cautious of when relocating residence?

The Basic Resident Register is different from Alien Registration. When relocating you submit the “notification of moving out” to the municipal office you lived in and a “certification of moving out” will be given to you. In your new municipal office, you must submit the “notification of moving in” within 14 days after transferring.

20. Can a foreign resident receive a *Jyuki Card* (basic resident card)?

- Foreign residents can receive a *Jyuki Card* but not compulsorily unlike Resident Card.
- You may register your name using an alias in a *Jyuki Card*.
- *Jyuki Card* will be received starting July 8, 2013.
- The validity period of a *Jyuki Card* is the expiration date of your duration of stay.
- For permanent resident the validity is 10 years similarly as Japanese nationals.

