

2021 APECO RULES AND REGULATIONS ON APECO VISAS ISSUED OUTSIDE OF THE PHILIPPINES

BACKGROUND

WHEREAS, The current 2018 APECO VISA Rules and Regulations regulatory procedures is not designed to adapt to the “New Normal” of physical distancing and limited mobility, when dealing with pandemics like the COVID-19 contagion.

WHEREAS, There is, thus, an urgent need to simplify, streamline and harmonize these requirements and to maximize the use of existing technologies to enable continued and more effective visa issuance services to foreign nationals within the Philippines or abroad.

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the rule making powers of APECO under Section 12 of Republic Act 9490, as amended by Section 6 (u) and (v) of RA 10083, in relation to the visa-related provisions of RA 9490, as amended by RA 10083, the following rules and regulations governing the processing and implementation of APECO visas outside of the Philippines are hereby promulgated to accomplish and implement the purposes, objectives and policies provided in APECO’s charter.

RULE I POLICY GUIDELINES

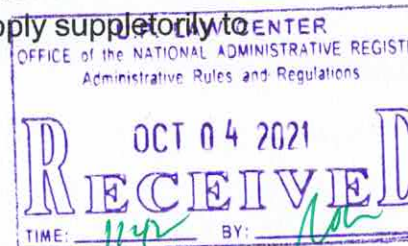
Section 1. Applicability – These rules and regulations shall be applicable to visas and Certificates of Exemption from Alien Employment Permits and Working Visas to be issued by Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority” (APECO) overseas to foreign consultants and/or foreign investors/employees of APECO and/or APECO registered enterprises, and qualified permanent residents and investors of Aurora Ecozone.

Section 2. Applicability of the 2018 Rules and Regulations on APECO VISAS -The 2018 Rules and Regulations on APECO VISAS shall apply ^{suppletorily to} these rules.

RULE II PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. Procedural Requirements. The following are the procedural requirements in the processing of applications and the issuance of APECO visas and Certificates of Exemption from Alien Employment Permits and Working Visas:

1.1 Receiving and initial evaluation of Applications. The APECO shall receive all applications with the documentary requirements for initial evaluation as to the completeness of the documents required. For this purpose, the



documentary requirements, application forms and applicable fees shall be those posted in the APECO's Official Website.

For the initial application, APECO shall accept electronic copies of the documentary requirements in place of hard copies, unless a hard copy of the requirement is required by law.

1.2. Payment of applicable fees. – No application or request filed under the preceding section shall be acted upon and processed unless the assessed visa fees prescribed in Annex "A" of 2018 Rules and Regulations on APECO VISAS, and other applicable fees and charges, including fines and penalties, if any, are fully paid. The applicable fees may be changed from time to time upon recommendation of the President and CEO and approved by the Board of Directors of APECO.

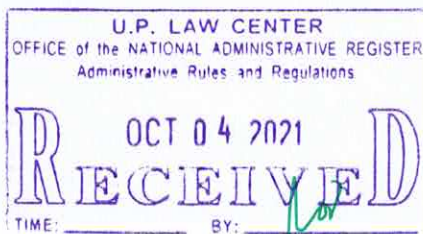
1.3. Encoding of personal information. – Upon payment of the appropriate fees, APECO shall cause the encoding of the personal information of the applicant and other relevant information necessary in considering the application.

1.4. Review/evaluation of the Application. – The application must be reviewed and evaluated by a competent APECO personnel taking into consideration the documents submitted by the applicant and other information gathered during the applicant's personal interview to be scheduled by the applicant and the reviewer. The applicant's personal interview may be conducted through the use of telephone or video calling technologies and other available secure technological platforms and shall cover areas that might help the reviewer in determining whether the applicant poses a risk to national security, public order, public safety or public health.

1.5. Recommendation to the APECO President and CEO. – Upon review and evaluation of the application, the reviewing officer shall submit his/her recommendation to the President, who may approve/disapprove the application, citing the reason therefor.

1.6. Approval – Upon approval of the of the application, the APECO President and CEO shall issue and send a Notice of Approval to the designated email of the Applicant/Authorized Representative.

1.7. Approval and implementation of Visa and Issuance of APECO Alien Identity Card. An approved visa or a computer-generated print stick-on visa with corresponding reference number, signature of the President/CEO of APECO and APECO's dry seal; and the APECO Alien Identity Card shall be sent to the registered address of the applicant through registered mail or private courier at the option of the applicant.



**RULE III
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

Section 1. Reportorial Requirements. – The APECO shall report to the Bureau of Immigration the names, dates of birth and nationalities of foreign nationals who are granted APECO visas or whose visas are cancelled or revoked, within thirty (30) days after its issuance, cancelation or revocation.

Section 2. Separability Clause. - If any provision of these rules and regulations is declared illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by a competent court or authority, the remaining provisions hereof shall remain valid and effective.

Section 3. Repealing Clause. Any provision of APECO's Visa rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby modified, amended, and/or repealed accordingly.

Section 4. Effectivity. - These rules and regulations shall take effect immediately. Furnish a copy of this Order to the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), U.P. Law Center, Diliman, Quezon City. Approved by the APECO Board of Directors on SEP 30 2021.

By the Authority of the APECO Board of Directors:


ISRAEL F. MADUCDOC
President & CEO

