

# Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2024

## Japan

### Temporary exemptions and relaxations for residents following the Noto earthquake

#### Executive summary

As of 17 January 2024, the Japanese immigration authorities implemented several exemptions and relaxations in immigration processes to assist residents affected by the earthquake that struck the Noto Peninsula on 1 January 2024.

#### Key developments

The immigration authorities temporarily introduced the following exemptions and relaxations:

- ▶ Individuals who were required to complete certain immigration processes prior to 30 April 2024 can now do so until this date. These processes include:
  - ▶ Reporting a new residential address to the authorities
  - ▶ Applying to extend the validity of residence cards or Special Permanent Resident Certificates
  - ▶ Applying for reissuance of residence cards or Special Permanent Resident Certificates due to loss or damage
  - ▶ Returning residence cards or Special Permanent Resident Certificates to the authorities after their expiry
- ▶ Applications to change or extend status of residence:
  - ▶ Applications filed by individuals after the original deadline will be assessed by the immigration authorities on a discretionary, case-by-case basis.
  - ▶ Residents who have been evacuated from their original place of residence to another location in Japan due to the earthquake may submit applications at the immigration office with jurisdiction over their current residence.

- ▶ Residents who are unable to continue their authorized work activities (as permitted under their current status) may obtain special permission to conduct other work activities for less than three months, until further notice.
- ▶ Holders of Technical Intern Trainee visas who are affected by the earthquake can engage in restoration activities (e.g., clearing debris) to facilitate continued technical training without obtaining additional permission, until further notice.

The immigration authorities also launched a multilingual [site](#) to share relevant updates.

#### Impact on employers

The temporary relaxations are expected to enable employers to mitigate business disruptions in the aftermath of the earthquake. Employers may monitor the evolving situation and ensure compliance with the updated requirements.

#### Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

## EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via [ey.com/privacy](https://ey.com/privacy). EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit [ey.com](https://ey.com).

Ernst & Young LLP is a client-serving member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited operating in the US.

© 2024 Ernst & Young LLP.  
All Rights Reserved.

EYG no. 000467-24Gbl

2101-3682263  
ED None

**[ey.com](https://ey.com)**

**Yoshito Kijima**  
Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +81 70 2478 0144  
Email: [yoshito.kijima@ey.com](mailto:yoshito.kijima@ey.com)

**Yoko Kiumi**  
Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +81 90 1133 6287  
Email: [yoko.kiumi@ey.com](mailto:yoko.kiumi@ey.com)