

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Security Services Division
Ministry of Home Affairs
Immigration Section-2
(www.ssd.gov.bd)

No: 58.00.0000.041.06.005.18-1656

Date: 31/12/2019

Circular

Subject: Granting Visa on Arrival (VoA)/Transit visa to a person arriving without visa.

Ref: 44.00.0000.09.19.001.12-1409, Date: 15 September, 2016

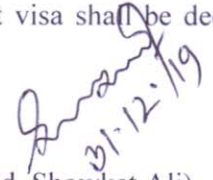
Visa on Arrival (VOA) facility will be provided to foreign nationals arriving without visa with the objective of promoting tourism, facilitating foreign investment, trade and business. VoA may be issued up to 30 (thirty) days with single entry upon arrival by the immigration authority at the designated entry points in Bangladesh after being fully satisfied on verifying the purpose and required papers of arriving persons from the countries mentioned below.

- a) VoA may be issued to the citizens of those countries where there is no diplomatic representation of Bangladesh and the purposes of arrival being government duties, business, investment and tourism.
- b) VoA may be issued to a foreign national arriving on government duties, business, investment, and tourism if he or she arrives from a country other than his/her own where there is no diplomatic representation of Bangladesh and the purposes of arrival being government duties, business, investment and tourism.
- c) VoA may be issued to investors/businessmen of any country on the basis of invitation/recommendation from the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA), Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA), Hi-Tech Park, Public Private Partnership Authority of Bangladesh (PPPAB) and other applicable authorities and any other reputed organization in Bangladesh. Inviting organization has to inform immigration authorities at the designated entry port before arrival.
- d) For the purpose of government duties, tourism, business, investment, VoA may be issued by the immigration authorities at the designated entry ports to visitors from Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Japan, South Korea, Brunei, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Egypt, U.S.A, Canada, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Turkey, UK, and EU countries upon satisfactory verification of all necessary documents.
- e) VoA may also be issued to foreigners arriving for specific assignments in the development projects of the Government, Semi-government, and Autonomous bodies upon production of the relevant documents.

- f) VoA may be issued to Bangladeshi descendent foreign nationals, their spouse and children, and spouse and children of Bangladeshi nationals holding foreign passports, on the basis of citizenship certificate/evidence.
 - g) Officials and staffs of Diplomatic Missions in Bangladesh, United Nations and its associate organizations may be issued VoA after verifying the documents of their appointment/arrival. Visa fee will not be applicable for the UN Passport holders.
 - h) In case of arrival of foreign military and members of security forces for official purposes, prior approval should be obtained from Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. Visa category can be changed only from VoA to the following categories mentioned below:
- a) To visa category A2/E1/E2/E3/PI upon submission of all relevant documents as per visa circular. Additional visa fee equivalent to US\$100 per person will be applicable per visa for such conversion.
 - b) Application for the change of category should be submitted to the Security Services Division within 15 (fifteen) days of arrival.
 - c) In case of conversion, the newly converted visa in Bangladesh shall be considered as the first visa of that particular category.
 - d) VoA facility shall be extended to a foreign national arriving in Bangladesh for not more than twice in a calendar year.
4. The following procedure should be followed at the time of issuing VoA:
- a) Visa fee should be paid in prescribed foreign currency.
 - b) An arriving foreign national must have at least US\$500 (five hundred)/equivalent foreign currency in cash/credit card except arriving for government duty.
 - c) An arriving foreign national must have return air ticket, invitation/local sponsors/accommodation arrangement/hotel booking.
 - d) Fee will not be charged for VoA to the passport holders of those countries or the citizens where visa fee is not applicable.
 - e) VoA fee shall be applicable to the citizens of the countries except those for which visa on arrival is allowed on the basis of reciprocity or agreement/arrangement.
 - f) Respective intelligence agency will collect detail information about the foreigners entering with visa on arrival. The Immigration authority at the designated entry ports will regularly send a monthly report on VoA facilities extended to the arriving persons to the Security Service Division, Ministry of Home Affairs and the Department of Immigration and Passports.
5. VoA can only be issued by an immigration officer at the entry point after being fully satisfied about the intention of the travel.
6. Immigration authority at the designated entry port will stamp the passport of the person granted VoA with entry and exit record.



7. Immigration authority at the international airports may grant transit visa up to next available connecting flight or maximum of 72 (seventy two) hours at the request of the airlines carrying the passenger. A service charge of US\$20.00 (twenty) or equivalent per passenger will be applicable in foreign currency and should be deposited in the prescribed Bank and account. Diplomatic and official passport holders will be granted transit visa without any fee if there is a visa exemption arrangement/agreement.
8. This order shall come into force on the 181st day from the date of issue of this notification. All circulars previously issued concerning Visa on Arrival (VoA) and transit visa shall be deemed to have been repealed.



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No: 58.00.0000.041.06.005.18-1656(200)

Date: 31/12/2019

Copy for kind information and necessary action (not according to seniority):

01. Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division/Principal Secretary, Prime Minister Office, Dhaka.
02. Foreign Secretary, Foreign Ministry, Dhaka (He is requested to send the copy of amended circular to all Bangladesh Embassies/Missions for necessary action).
03. Senior Secretary/ Secretary (All).
04. Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka
05. Executive Chairman/Chairman , BIDA/BEZA/BEPZA/High-Tech Park/ PPPAB, Dhaka.
06. Bangladesh Embassy/ Mission (All).
07. Director General, Department of Immigration and Passports/ Directorate General of Forces Intelligence/National Security Intelligence/NGO Affairs Bureau, Dhaka.
08. Additional Secretary.....(All), Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dhaka.
09. Additional Inspector General of Police, Special Branch, Dhaka.
10. Chairman, Bangladesh Tourism Corporation, Dhaka.
11. Joint Secretary.....(All), Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dhaka.
12. Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Tourism Board, Dhaka.
13. President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), 60 Motijheel, C/A, Dhaka.
14. Chairman, Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Gulshan-2, Dhaka.
15. PS to Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dhaka.
16. PS to Secretary, Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dhaka.
17. Deputy Secretary/Senior Assistant Secretary (Immigration Section-5/6, Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dhaka.


(Md. Showkat Ali)
Joint Secretary