

Embassy of the United States Tokyo, Japan

NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS

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TRANSLATION: 日本語

Frequently Asked Questions about Treaty Trader and Investor Visas

E1/E2 applications at the Consulate in Osaka-Kobe from June 1 through August 31, 2014

- Why are you not accepting E visa interview appointment at the Consulate in Osaka-Kobe?
- I already made an E visa appointment at Osaka during this time period, can I still come in for an appointment?
- I would like to renew mine and my family's visas by mail, can I do so in Osaka?
- I have my visa already that was issued in Osaka, but my new spouse and child needs to apply for their E visa. What can they do?
- I'm not able to go to the Embassy in Tokyo, can I go to the Consulate in Fukuoka?
- I need to travel immediately. How do I get an emergency appointment?
- I am planning to submit documentation to register a new E visa company with the Consulate in Osaka, am I or my representative still able to provide that information to you?

- What is a registered E visa company?
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- Once my company is registered, how long will it take to process my visa?
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- I am in the U.S. Can I send my E visa application to Japan?
- Currently I am the only E visa holder in the U.S. Office. I intend to revalidate

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my five year E visa before it expires next month. Am I required to bring an updated Form DS-156E with the most recent tax return to my interview?

- Can my family members work in the US?
- My US company (employer) has been changed. Do I have to apply for a new E visa?
- When a company that currently holds an E visa merges with other company in the US, can the E visa still be used?

Why are you not accepting E visa interview appointment at the Consulate in Osaka-Kobe?

The Consulate in Osaka-Kobe will temporarily stop accepting E1/E2 visa appointments from June 1 through August 31 since the Consular Section in Osaka will be severely understaffed this summer. To allow for sufficient processing of all visa applications, the Consulate, in conjunction with the Embassy in Tokyo will make every effort to ensure that all E visa applicants are able to travel to the United States in as timely a fashion as possible. We appreciate that this will cause difficulties for some individuals and we apologize for any inconveniences for individuals, their family members and companies. We appreciate your understanding. We will resume normal E visa processing on September 1.

I already made an E visa appointment at Osaka during this time period, can I still come in for an appointment?

If you made an E visa appointment, you are welcome to come the Consulate-General in Osaka for your interview.

I would like to renew mine and my family's visas by mail, can I do so in Osaka?

Yes, you are free to do so, please see the section on "drop-box" visa processing.

I have my visa already that was issued in Osaka, but my new spouse and child needs to apply for their E visa. What can they do?

Children, under the age of 14, are free to use the mail-in case option for Osaka. Spouses will have to apply and be

biometrically enrolled for their visas in Tokyo or Fukuoka.

I'm not able to go to the Embassy in Tokyo, can I go to the Consulate in Fukuoka?

Yes, but please understand that Tokyo has a far greater capacity to handle E applicants and are making special provisions to assist Osaka during this time. The Consulate in Fukuoka provides relatively very few visa appointments. It will be much easier to get an appointment in Tokyo.

I need to travel immediately. How do I get an emergency appointment?

Please submit an emergency appointment request to Tokyo.

I am planning to submit documentation to register a new E visa company with the Consulate in Osaka, am I or my representative still able to provide that information to you?

Yes. The Consulate in Osaka will continue to receive new company applications as normal. Due to staffing constraints, it will take approximately 10-12 weeks to register a new company. We will contact the individuals/company representatives individually for procedures for processing applications at this time.

What is a registered E visa company?

Regulations regarding E visas are complicated. As a result, we are required to conduct a detailed review of every company wishing to obtain E visas. Once the review is completed and successful, we add the company's name to the register of E companies for Japan. Once a company is registered, its employees can apply for E visas following the same procedures as other visa applicants.

How do I register my company?

Detailed instructions can be found on our [Treaty Traders & Investors Visa Registration](#) webpage.

How long will it take to review a company's registration request?

Processing time for review of treaty trader/treaty investor registration applications is usually eight weeks.

Can I send E visa company registration documents without an individual application?

No. Initial registration applications must be accompanied by an individual application.

Once my company is registered, how long will it take to process my visa?

Please allow at least 1 week for processing. Visa processing time depends on the case. Some cases may take 2 to 3 weeks or more to process. In the peak summer and winter seasons, processing may take longer, so plan ahead and apply for a visa in advance of your travel date.

What is substantial trade?

Please look at [this PDF document \(9 FAM 41.51\)](#) and scroll down to section N6.

What is substantial investment?

Please look at [this PDF document \(9 FAM 41.51\)](#) and scroll down to section N10.

I am in the U.S. Can I send my E visa application to Japan?

We do not accept visa applications from the U.S. If you are registering your company, the U.S. firm or lawyer can mail us the registration documents from the U.S. You will, however, be required to appear personally for an interview in Japan to apply for your visa.

Currently I am the only E visa holder in the U.S. Office. I intend to revalidate my five year E visa before it expires next month. Am I required to bring an updated Form DS-156E with the most recent tax return to my interview?

We need an updated Form DS-156E with **the past 4 years** of tax returns or non-consolidated financial statements.

Can my family members work in the U.S.?

Family members may work on derivative E visas if permission has been obtained in advance from the [United States Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\)](#). Study at academic institutions is possible.

My US company (employer) has been changed. Do I have to apply for a new E visa?

If you remain in the US, you may change your employer at DHS. Once you leave the US and re-enter to the US to start working for the new company, you need a new E

visa.

When a company that currently holds an E visa merges with other company in the US, can the E visa still be used?

An E visa is not granted to the company automatically, even if the company is merged to a Japanese company. Please send necessary documents for registration to the Embassy/Consulate.

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