

# Outline of the Basic Policy on Operation of the System Related to the Status of Residence of “Specified Skilled Worker”

## Basic Policy on Operation of the System of the Status of Residence of “Specified Skilled Worker” Established to Ensure Proper Operation of the System of the Status of Residence of “Specified Skilled Worker” (Article 2-3 of the newly amended Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act)

### 1. Matters concerning the significance of the system

To build a framework for the acceptance of work-ready foreign nationals, who possess certain expertise and skills in industrial fields where it is difficult to secure workforces even after efforts to improve productivity and secure domestic human resources have been made so as to respond to the serious shortage in labor of small and medium-sized enterprises and other businesses.

### 2. Matters concerning the industrial fields where labor shortage needs to be supplemented by foreign workers

#### ➤ Fields where specified skilled workers will be accepted

Industrial fields where foreign workers are needed to supplement the labor shortage, which is still difficult to secure human resources even after efforts have been made to improve productivity and secure domestic human resources (hereinafter referred to as “specified industrial fields”).

#### ➤ Consideration to regions facing labor shortage

Efforts to take necessary measures will be made so as not to have an excessive concentration of specified skilled workers in metropolitan areas or other particular areas

#### ➤ Expected number of acceptance

The number of specified skilled workers to be accepted over the next five years will be stated in the operation policy of each field

### 4. Basic matters concerning adjustment of the administrative affairs of the relevant administrative organizations

➤ Measures taken in Japan: Malicious intermediary organizations (brokers), etc. will be eliminated completely through enhancing collaboration between the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and other related organizations.

➤ Measures taken outside Japan: In order to prevent the intervention by malicious intermediary organizations such as those that collect deposits, intergovernmental documents such as bilateral arrangements will be made as well as necessary measures will be taken.

#### ➤ Responses to changes in the situation of labor shortages

The head of the administrative organizations which are in charge of the specified industrial fields will continuously monitor the situation of labor shortage in the fields. When a change was observed in the situation, the relevant administrative organizations of the system and those which are in charge of the specified industrial fields will discuss future policies of acceptance. If necessary, revision of operation policy of each specified industrial field, suspension of the issuance of certificates of eligibility or deletion of fields from the ministerial ordinance stipulating the specified industrial fields will be discussed at the relevant ministerial meetings.

The expected number of foreign workers to be accepted over the next five years will be considered as the upper limit of acceptance under this system, unless there is a major change in the economic situation.

#### ➤ Responses in the event of public security problems

The relevant administrative organizations of the system and those which are in charge of the specified individual fields will make efforts to cooperate by sharing and monitoring the related information, and to take necessary measures so as to ensure such problems as foreign workers got missing and other public security problems will not occur through the acceptance of specified skilled workers.

### 5. Important matters concerning operation of the system

#### ➤ Supports for “Specified Skilled Worker (i)”

Orientation of daily life, support to learn daily Japanese language, consultations and complaints handling for foreign workers, promotion of exchanges between foreign workers and Japanese are included in the supports.

When foreign workers use Hello Work to change their jobs, Hello Work will make efforts to understand the work conditions foreign workers desire, their skill level, and Japanese language proficiency level, and provide proper services for employment counseling and job placement.

➤ Employment type: Full-time and, in principle, direct hire. Under special circumstances, specified skilled workers may, as an exception, be dispatched by staffing services agencies, but this will be clearly stated in the operation policy of each field.

#### ➤ Measures responding to problems for immigration control of Japan

To carefully deal with accepting foreign workers from countries that are causing problems for immigration control of Japan, such as illegal staying, refusal of the obligation to accept their citizens who are issued deportation order in Japan, abused/misused applications for Recognition of Refugee Status, neglect of inappropriate intermediary agencies, and trafficking in persons, etc.

➤ Review of the Basic Policy: The system will be reviewed 2 years after enforcement of the amended Act, and modified if necessary.

### 3. Matters concerning necessary human resources

\* Confirmed through the exams or other methods specified by the ministries in charge of each field

	Specified Skilled Worker (i)	Specified Skilled Worker (ii)
Skill level	Skills that require considerable knowledge or experience (*)	Proficient skills *
Japanese proficiency level	The workers should be basically able to deal with daily conversation to a certain extent, which is enough to survive daily life, as well as to have Japanese language proficiency required for their work *	—
Period of stay	Upper limit of a total of 5 years	Extension of the period of stay is possible
Accompanying family members	In principle, not permitted	Permitted