



NEW WORK VISA REQUIREMENT FOR FOREIGN WORKERS IN MALAYSIA

The Malaysian Ministry of Human Resources has announced the following new requirements relative to the employment of foreign workers (**except domestic workers**) in Malaysia.

- **Attendance of Foreign Workers to an Induction Course.** The 60-hour (10 days at six hours per day) course aims to educate foreign workers on Malaysian language, culture and laws to ensure that they adjust easily to the Malaysian society. **This new requirement applies to all foreign workers who will arrive in Malaysia on 01 November 2005 onwards.** Attendance to this course, which cost US\$10 is a requisite in the issuance of a work visa. Accredited training centers (TC) in the source country will conduct the induction course.
- **Passing of a Written Test.** The worker must take a 90-item written test after attending the induction course. A passing mark of 50% is required in order for the worker to secure a certificate of eligibility for the issuance of the work visa. The test covers topics that were discussed during the induction course and will be conducted by accredited Training Centers in the source country under the supervision of the Malaysian Training Provider (MTP).
- **Attendance to an Orientation Course.** **This requirement applies only to foreign workers who have arrived in Malaysia from 01 November 2004 to 30 October 2005.** The orientation course has the same modular content as the induction course with the employer directly responsible in providing the orientation course or through an outsourced MTP. Employers who fail to provide the said orientation course for their workers will not be allowed to hire additional foreign workers. **Those who had attended this course need not take the written test.**

The government of Malaysia believes that these initiatives will minimize the incidence of labor problems arising from employer-employee relationships as well as the commission of criminal acts by the foreign workers due to lack of basic knowledge of both the Malaysian labor and criminal laws.