

Scheme of Granting License/Permit to Import Fully Electric Vehicles for Sri Lankans Employed Abroad

Public Opinions/Suggestions Received over the Phone and the Suggestions/ Answers up to 23.09.2022

S/No	Opinions/Suggestions	Suggested Answer
1	Whether a Sri Lankan who holds dual-citizenship is eligible for this license scheme?	Yes.
2	Whether a Sri Lankan who has established a company abroad and is a director of such a venture or self-employed is eligible for this license scheme?	If the foreign exchange remitted to Sri Lanka has been through a legal employment of that country, such Sri Lankans are also eligible for obtaining permits under this scheme.
3	If a Sri Lankan has converted all the remitted foreign currency into Sri Lankan Rupees, then is he eligible for this license scheme?	Yes. At such an event, the bank will facilitate up to 50% of the remitted amount into USD which he entitles to import a vehicle.
4	At the time of applying for the permit, the applicant has the minimum stated amount in his account as per the circular. With the expectation of remitting a higher amount, can he get a license of a higher value than the existing amount in the account?	No. The license will be issued only after remitting the amount which should be double the CIF value of the vehicle.
5	Money has been remitted to a Normal Savings Account. Is it eligible?	Yes. Not only Normal Savings Accounts but also Special Deposit Accounts (SDA), transfers through Western Union, Money Gram etc. can also be considered, provided such receipts are confirmed by the relevant bank/s .
6	The circular has stated that remittance should be in USD terms. Are the other foreign currencies not eligible?	Eligible. The bank will convert other foreign currencies into USD appropriately when the Bank Confirmation letter is issued.
7	Are the other foreign currencies converted into USD based on the exchange rate of remittance date or bank confirmation issue date?	Based on the exchange rate prevailed at the remittance date.
8	It is better to discuss with the Sri Lanka Vehicle Importers' Association and get their support for this scheme.	It has already been performed.

9	To whom should the license applications be handed over? There is no proper guidance on this in the circular.	Applications can be handed over either by hand or by post to the following address. Secretary Ministry of Labour and Foreign Employment 07 th Floor Mehewara Piyasa Colombo 05.
10	Is it charged for issuing a license /permit?	No.
11	How long will it take to issue a license?	If there is no deficiencies in the documents submitted, it will be issued within two weeks.
12	Are these circulars and relevant details published in the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment website which is viewed by foreign employees in a great deal?	The circulars and relevant details have been published in the SLBFE website.
13	Why hasn't it been facilitated to collect these applications at the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment which is visited by many foreign employees?	It has been facilitated.
14	It is better to publish/promote these in the Return Section of the Airport and facilitate to collect applications there-in.	Necessary actions will be taken to facilitate this.
15	Can an application be changed into a higher value than the original before issuing the license/permit?	Yes. At such an event, the first application will be disregard and the second will be considered.
16	Moreover, to the 15. After issuing the license, can such a change be made?	If such an application is submitted with all the copies of the previous license within the stipulated time frame in the Circular, then it may be considered.
17	What should be submitted by the migrant worker to process the application on behalf of him? Either a letter or power of attorney?	A Power of attorney.
18	Is it possible to extend the period of consideration for motor vehicles up to 30 th April,2023?	As the pilot project, time extension is not be considered. By the time being, it will be considered to extend the period.
19	Is it possible to include the tax rates for HS Codes in the circular?	Action will be taken to publish these details in the website for the reference of the applicants.
20	The banks state that they have not been provided with this circular and guidance when applying for Letter of Credit (LC).	Necessary steps have already been taken.

21	Can a vehicle be directly imported without opening a Letter of Credit?	No.
22	Can the permit holder import a vehicle of CIF value higher than the value of the already issued permit, provided the additional amount of money is remitted after issuing the permit?	Yes. Within the stipulated time frame of the Circular, the applicant should submit the previous license with all the copies for cancellation and 100% remittance confirmation letter issued from the bank.
23	Can the migrant workers who are getting retirement or ending their work permits apply for this license scheme?	Yes. Such applicants should comply with the other requirements of the Circular.
24	If an applicant has arrived in Sri Lanka due to a reason mentioned in No. 23 above, then can he apply for the license/permit?	No
25	Migrant workers who have remitted a great deal of amounts of money before the stipulated date of the circular, are being disadvantageous of the scheme. It is better to take actions in this regard.	With regard to remittance, only the stipulated time frame is considered.
26	Can a migrant worker apply for more than one license/permit? Ex: A motor car and a motor bike Two motor cars Two motor bikes	No. Only one permit is allowed.
27	Please explain the process and exchange procedure when the local agent's bank and the applicant's remittance bank are different at the time of opening a Letter of Credit.	Each applicant should open the Letter of Credit through the respective remittance bank.
28	Can the beneficiary of the migrant worker in Sri Lanka get the license/permit in the name of such beneficiary?	No. The license/permit will be issued in the name of migrant worker only.
29	If a migrant worker's remitted money has been converted into Sri Lanka Rupees and the full amount has already been withdrawn. In such a scenario, can the bank provide the migrant worker with a loan facility to get the 50% of forex facility?	Providing a rupee loan to the migrant worker is up to the decision of the bank based on their loan policies.
30	Can a migrant worker who has ended his employment and is now in Sri Lanka but has forex deposits in accounts maintain in those foreign countries, be a beneficiary of this license/permit scheme?	No.