

## **Travel Without Visa Counterfoils: Information for Work Permit Applicants & Representatives**

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) recognizes that the current COVID-19 crisis represents an exceptional situation that affects many work permit applicants who require visa counterfoils (visa stickers).

Therefore, at this time, IRCC Mexico is not requesting all workers who require these visa counterfoils to send us their passports prior to travel. Instead, based on an assessment of each case, **IRCC Mexico may issue a letter containing an individual's counterfoil (visa sticker) information for travellers to present to airlines.** Issuance of the letter is at the discretion of IRCC Mexico.

This is an exceptional measure is being made in response to difficulties receiving and returning passports during the current COVID-19 crisis, and **will only be considered for workers determined by IRCC Mexico to meet the current Order in Council travel exemptions (primarily agricultural workers)** and who have been approved a work permit.

This is a temporary measure to respond to current challenges, and should not be expected to continue once Visa Application Centres (VACs) have resumed their normal business activities.

### **Q: Which documents do approved applicants need to travel?**

**A:** Approved workers will need to travel with a valid passport, as well as an IRCC-issued counterfoil letter and a copy of their Work Permit Letter of Introduction. Both letters **must be printed** and presented to the airline/airport authorities. It is essential that travel document information is entered correctly during the online application process. The passport information listed on the letter must correspond exactly to the passport being used for travel, otherwise the worker may have difficulties boarding. Changes to travel document information must be communicated to IRCC Mexico as soon as possible.

### **Q: What type of flight can these workers take to Canada?**

**A:** At present, only this option is available for workers travelling on charter flights.

### **Q: What information needs to be communicated to IRCC Mexico?**

**A:** A travel plan must be provided to IRCC Mexico, including the name of the worker, date of travel, name of airline, flight number, date and destination of arrival. If the worker must transit to another city, the details for domestic travel must be provided, including whether it is by ground or air transportation. Flight details are required in order to issue the counterfoil-less work permit. Travel plans should be communicated by email to [Mexico-im-sawp@international.gc.ca](mailto:Mexico-im-sawp@international.gc.ca).

**Q: What additional information should workers/employers be aware of related to Canada's current COVID-19 health measures?**

**A:** According to recent Government of Canada announcements, individuals must demonstrate that they have the necessary non-medical mask or face covering to cover their mouth and nose during travel. Individuals must demonstrate this during the boarding process, otherwise they will not be permitted to continue on their journey.

If workers have no symptoms, they must quarantine (self-isolate) for 14 days upon entry to Canada. This is mandatory. Any individual is at risk of developing symptoms and infecting others. Workers must demonstrate to the CBSA officer at the port of entry that they have a quarantine plan, will go directly to their place of quarantine without stopping anywhere, and have private transportation to get to their place of quarantine. If workers do not have an adequate place to quarantine (self-isolate), the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada will designate a facility where they must remain for 14 days.

Some workers may have a connecting flight to get to their work location/place of quarantine. If the worker arrives to Canada and has a connecting flight the following day, commercial accommodations must be arranged for them. Individuals are not permitted to stay overnight in the airport.

Quarantine regulations are mandatory by law and enforceable under the Quarantine Act. Non-compliance under the Act could be subject to imprisonment, fines, or both.

More information regarding quarantine regulations can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>

Travellers are advised to consult this site for updates before traveling.