

OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL TRANSLATION

Immigration Fee Revision Package — 2026

A complete English translation of the seven Japanese government documents published by the Immigration Services Agency of Japan on July 3, 2026, covering proposed fee increases, draft laws, comparative data, and submission guidelines.

Issuing Authority: Immigration Services Agency (出入国在留管理庁), Ministry of Justice, Japan

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Enforcement Date: October 1, 2026 (令和8年10月1日)

Legal Basis: Act No. 32 of 2026 — Amendment to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act

Public Comment Deadline: August 2, 2026 (必着)

Contents: Document 1 — Public Comment Notice · Document 2 — Draft Cabinet Order · Document 3 — Draft Ministerial Ordinance · Documents 4 & 5 — Outlines · Document 6 — Old vs. New Comparison Table · Document 7 — Fee Schedules & International Comparisons

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Public Comment Solicitation Notice

Topic: Draft Cabinet Order and Draft Ministerial Ordinance to Amend Japan's Immigration Enforcement Regulations

Date: July 3, 2026 **Agency:** Immigration Services Agency

Why this notice was issued

With the enactment of **Act No. 32 of 2026** (Amendment to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act), the government must update the underlying enforcement orders and ministerial rules. This includes revising fee amounts for residence permits, re-entry permits, and permanent residency — and promoting the adoption of the new *Specified Residence Card* system. The public has been invited to submit comments on the draft rules before they take effect.

How to Submit Your Comments

Comments must be in **Japanese**. Telephone submissions are not accepted. Use one of the three methods below:

- ① **Online (e-Gov)** — Visit <https://search.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Public>, find this case, and fill in the comment form.
(Reminder: You must open/click all draft PDF links on the e-Gov page to enable the submission checkbox.)
- ② **Email** — Send plain text (no attachments) to nyukan73@moj.go.jp. Subject line must read:
「パブリックコメント (手数料に関する政令案等について) 」
- ③ **Post** — Mail to: Counselor's Office, Immigration Services Agency, 1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8973. Write "Public Comment (fees)" in red on the envelope.

Key Rules

- The **deadline is August 2, 2026** (must arrive by this date, including postal submissions).
- Comments outside the scope of the draft orders will not be processed.
- Individuals must include their name and address; corporations must include company name and address.
- No individual replies will be sent. Summaries of comments will be published (personal info removed).

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Draft Cabinet Order — Fee Schedule

Full title: Draft Cabinet Order to Amend the Enforcement Order of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and the Special Enforcement Order for the Special Act on the Immigration Control of Persons who Have Departed from Japanese Nationality Based on the Treaty of Peace with Japan

Article 1 — New Fee Schedule (Article 25)

The new fees, effective **October 1, 2026**, are graded by the length of the approved stay. Online applications receive a discount of ¥3,000–¥10,000 compared to window applications.

Permit Type	Approved Period	Method	New Fee	Old Fee
Change of Status / Extension	3 months or less	Window / Online	¥10,000	¥6,000 / ¥5,500
Change of Status / Extension	3 months+ to 6 months	Window	¥18,000	¥6,000
		Online	¥15,000	¥5,500
Change of Status / Extension	Over 6 months to 1 year	Window	¥25,000	¥6,000
		Online	¥21,000	¥5,500
Change of Status / Extension	1 year	Window	¥33,000	¥6,000
		Online	¥27,000	¥5,500
Change of Status / Extension	1 year+ to 3 years	Window	¥48,000	¥6,000
		Online	¥42,000	¥5,500
Change of Status / Extension	3 years+ to 5 years	Window	¥64,000	¥6,000
		Online	¥56,000	¥5,500
Change of Status / Extension	5 years or more	Window	¥75,000	¥6,000
		Online	¥65,000	¥5,500
Permanent Residence	Indefinite	Window	¥200,000	¥10,000
Re-entry Permit (single)	As approved	Window	¥4,000	¥4,000
		Online	¥3,500	¥3,500
Re-entry Permit (multiple)	As approved	Window	¥7,000	¥7,000
		Online	¥6,500	¥6,500

*Note: The permanent residence fee increase from ¥10,000 to ¥200,000 is a **20× increase**. Re-entry permit fees remain unchanged at this stage.*

Document Issuance Fees (New — Article 25-2)

Document / Card Type	New Fee
Specified Registered Card (initial issuance)	¥4,000
Specified Registered Card (re-issuance)	¥2,000
Certificate of Authorized Employment	¥2,000 (Online: ¥1,600)
Residence Card	¥1,900
Refugee Travel Document	¥4,800

Fee Reduction & Exemption Eligibility (Article 25, Paragraphs 2–4)

Eligible for reduction (up to ¥10,000 for status changes; up to ¥20,000 for permanent residence):

- Persons in financial hardship equivalent to public assistance recipients, who are recognized as refugees or complementary protection beneficiaries.

Fully exempt from fees:

- Persons changing status to Diplomat or Official.
- Persons on Official status renewing their stay.
- Other persons designated by Ministerial Ordinance (see Document 3).

Special rule — Specified Residence Card rollout (Paragraph 5):

If a mid-to-long term resident (not yet holding a Specified Residence Card) applies for one alongside their status change, the fee is the standard permit fee *plus* the card issuance fee.

DOCUMENT 3 OF 7

Draft Ministerial Ordinance — Procedural Rules

Signed by: Minister of Justice Hiroshi Hiraguchi **Legal authority:** Act Art. 69(2), Art. 69-2(2), Cabinet Order Art. 25(2)(iv)

What Changes

① New group eligible for fee waivers (new Article 61)

The following persons are now exempt from paying residence permit fees, as they are treated similarly to diplomatic/official visa holders:

- Staff of the **Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan** (台湾日本関係協会) and their co-habiting family members, under "Designated Activities" status.
- Staff of the **Permanent General Mission of Palestine in Japan** (駐日パレスチナ総代表部) and their co-habiting family members, under "Designated Activities" status.
- The above groups also qualify when renewing their "Designated Activities" stay.

② Electronic payment for online applications (new Article 62, Paragraphs 3 & 4)

When an application is submitted online, fees **must** be paid electronically (e.g. credit card via a designated payment operator). The old revenue-stamp method is **not** available for online submissions.

Exception: If the online payment system is down, the immigration commissioner may allow revenue stamp payment on a case-by-case basis.

③ Electronic filing — exemption from in-person appearance (Article 59-4)

Applicants who file electronically using the Ministry of Justice's online system are no longer required to appear in person at immigration offices for certain application types.

④ Delegation of authority (Article 63)

The Minister of Justice's power to *reduce* or *waive* fees under Article 67(3) is delegated to regional immigration office directors (地方出入国在留管理局長).

⑤ Housekeeping renumbering

Article 61-2 → Article 63 (electronic processing); Article 61-3 → Article 64 (notification of decisions). Aligned with Justice Ministry Order No. 45 of 2025.

DOCUMENTS 4 & 5 OF 7

Official Outlines (Summaries)

Cabinet Order Outline (Document 4)

Section	Summary
Purpose	Update fee amounts and card issuance rules following Act No. 32 of 2026.
Key Changes	New fee tiers by stay length; online discount of ¥3,000–¥10,000; humanitarian reductions; Specified Residence Card rollout incentives.
Enforcement Date	October 1, 2026

Ministerial Ordinance Outline (Document 5)

Section	Summary
Purpose	Specify procedural details for the fee revisions — who is exempt, and how online fees are paid.
New Exemptions	Taiwanese and Palestinian representative office staff and their families are added to the fee-exempt list.
Online Payment	Electronic applications must use online payment (credit card etc.). Revenue stamps only accepted as emergency fallback.
Legal Basis	Act Art. 69(2); Cabinet Order Art. 25(2)(iv)
Enforcement Date	October 1, 2026

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Old Law vs. New Law — Side-by-Side

The table below shows the exact legal text changes to Article 25 of the Immigration Control Act Enforcement Order (Cabinet Order No. 178 of 1998).

PROPOSED NEW TEXT	CURRENT TEXT (BEING REPLACED)
Article 25 — Payment of Fees for Change of Status, etc. The fee to be paid under Art. 67(1) of the Act shall be: (1) Change/Extension ≤ 3 months → ¥10,000 (2) Change/Extension > 3 months → graded by period: · 3–6 months: ¥18,000 (online ¥15,000) · 6 mo.–1 yr: ¥25,000 (online ¥21,000) · 1 year: ¥33,000 (online ¥27,000) · 1–3 years: ¥48,000 (online ¥42,000) · 3–5 years: ¥64,000 (online ¥56,000) · 5+ years: ¥75,000 (online ¥65,000) (3) Permanent Residence → ¥200,000 (4) Re-entry (single) → ¥4,000 (online ¥3,500) (5) Re-entry (multiple) → ¥7,000 (online ¥6,500)	Article 25 — Amount of Fees for Change of Status, etc. The fee to be paid under Arts. 67–68 of the Act shall be: (1) Change of Status → ¥6,000 (online ¥5,500) (2) Extension of Stay → ¥6,000 (online ¥5,500) (3) Permanent Residence → ¥10,000 (4) Re-entry (single) → ¥4,000 (online ¥3,500) (5) Re-entry (multiple) → ¥7,000 (online ¥6,500) (6) Specified Registered Card → ¥4,000 (7) Card re-issuance → ¥2,000 (8) Employment Certificate → ¥2,000 (online ¥1,600) (9) Residence Card → ¥1,900 (10) Refugee Travel Document → ¥4,800
Article 25-2 (NEW ARTICLE — Card Issuance Fees) Specified Registered Card (initial) → ¥4,000 Specified Registered Card (re-issue) → ¥2,000 Employment Certificate → ¥2,000 (online ¥1,600) Residence Card → ¥1,900 Refugee Travel Document → ¥4,800	<i>No equivalent article (these items were previously listed under Article 25)</i>

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Fee Calculation Logic & International Comparisons

Section 1 — How the New Fees Were Calculated

The government breaks the fee into three components:

Component	Amount	Explanation
① Actual Admin Cost	≈¥10,000 (≈¥20,000 for PR)	Personnel cost (¥6,300) + systems & admin (¥3,300). PR is higher because reviews take longer.
② Beneficiary Contribution	≈¥20,000/year (scaled by stay)	Total immigration budget ÷ ~2.91M mid-to-long-term residents. The longer the stay, the slower the increase (diminishing returns). For PR the average stay post-approval is 13.5 years → ~3× the 5-year rate = ¥180,000.
③ Policy Incentive (Online Discount)	¥3,000–¥10,000 discount for online	To ease office congestion and digitise services, online applicants pay less.

Example (5-year permit): Admin ¥10,000 + Beneficiary ¥60,000 + Online adjustment → Window ¥75,000 / Online ¥65,000.

Section 2 — Reduction & Exemption Details

Reduction (not full exemption):

- Needy persons who are recognized refugees or complementary protection beneficiaries may have fees reduced to: ¥10,000 (for status change/extension) or ¥20,000 (for permanent residence).

Full exemption:

- Diplomatic and Official status holders changing to / renewing those categories.
- Persons defined in the Ministerial Ordinance (Taiwanese/Palestinian rep. office staff).

Enforcement date: October 1, 2026

Section 3 — International Comparison: Work Permit Fees

Data current as of June 1, 2026. Exchange rates: 1 USD = ¥149, 1 GBP = ¥195, 1 CAD = ¥107, 1 EUR = ¥166, 1 KRW = ¥0.11.

Country	Type of Permit	Permitted Period	Total Fee (¥ equiv.)
United States	H-1B (university degree required) — employer pays all	Up to 3 years	¥1,099,620
	Seasonal / temporary non-agricultural worker — employer pays all	Up to 3 years (annual renewal)	¥272,670
United Kingdom	Skilled Worker (1 yr): ¥1,843,725 for 3 yr; employer pays ¥874,575	1 year or 3 years	¥745,485 (1yr)
	Seasonal worker — employer pays some	Up to 6 months	¥77,025

Canada	Temporary Foreign Worker Program — employer pays ¥107,000	No fixed limit	¥132,680
	International Mobility Program — employer pays ¥24,610	No fixed limit	¥50,290
France	Employee / temporary worker	Up to 1 year	¥58,100
Italy	Skilled worker	Up to 2 years	¥29,292
Germany	Degree-required work permit	Up to 4 years	¥16,268
South Korea	Specialised professional permit	Up to 3 years	¥11,000
☐ ☐ Japan (NEW)	Change/Extension — 5 years	5 years	¥75,000 (window) ¥65,000 (online)

Note: Most fees shown include all mandatory components. Figures are per-applicant unless stated otherwise.

Section 4 — International Comparison: Permanent Residence Fees

Country	Application Type	Total Fee (¥ equiv.)
United States	Diversity Visa Programme (lottery)	¥102,000
	Family-sponsored Green Card	¥315,000
	Employment-based Green Card (note: ¥200,000 paid by employer)	¥410,000
United Kingdom	Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)	¥629,000
Canada	Entrepreneur / self-employed	¥267,000
	Skilled worker	¥170,000
France	Carte de résident (permanent)	¥42,000
Italy	Permesso di soggiorno UE (long-stay)	¥29,000
Germany	Niederlassungserlaubnis (Skilled worker)	¥24,000
South Korea	F-5 Permanent Residence	¥22,000
☐☐ Japan (NEW)	Eijuuken (永住許可) — permanent residence	¥200,000 ↑ from ¥10,000

Japan's new permanent residence fee of ¥200,000 is higher than Canada, France, Italy, Germany, and South Korea, but is in the same range as US employment-based and UK ILR fees. The increase from the current ¥10,000 is 20×.

Section 5 — Refugee Status Applicants: Policies in Other Countries

Data collected by the Immigration Services Agency as of June 1, 2026.

Country	Legal Basis	Stay Permission	Fees
United States	No formal status; "period of stay authorized"	Legally present while application pending	Application fee: \$100 USD. Annual maintenance: \$100 USD/year. No reductions.
UK / Canada / France / Germany	Asylum seeker status	Legal presence during proceedings	No fees for asylum application or the resulting stay permit.
Italy	Temporary asylum-seeker permit	Legal residence; renewable every 6 months	Revenue stamp of €16 per application / renewal. No fee for the asylum application itself.
South Korea	G-1 (Miscellaneous) status	Up to 1 year, renewable	Status change fee: 100,000 KRW (≈¥11,000). No reductions. No asylum application fee.
☐ ☐ Japan (current)	Specific Stay (特定在留資格); case-by-case	Conditional, varies by case	Needy refugees may apply for fee reductions under the new rules.