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Amendment on Korea's Act on Employment of Foreign Workers affecting Sincere or Special Re-entry Workers

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Seoul has provided information on the partial amendment of legislation on the Act on Employment of Foreign Workers that took effect on 14 October 2021.

The partial amendments apply to Sincere (special re-entry) workers and include the following:

- The period of re-entry of Sincere or special re-entry workers is reduced from three (3) months to one (1) month. This is in order to reduce the "business gap" caused by the 3 months re-entry requirement.
- A foreign worker may be allowed to become Sincere or special re-entry worker even if he/she has changed his/her workplace, provided that the foreign worker has worked for 4 years and 10 months in the same industry where he/she started to work and that the current employment contract with the employer applying for re-entry permission is more than 1 year.

Special re-entry exception may also be granted on conditions decided by Korean authorities.

- For employers who are hiring Sincere or special re-entry works for the first time, they will be required to attend a mandatory Employment Permit System seminar on labor-related laws and human rights.
- Mining will be added to the industries where foreign workers are allowed to be hired under the special employment permit system (EPS).

The Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) expects the improvement in the special re-entry system to help both employers and foreign workers.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

Sources: Philippine Overseas Labor Office - Seoul Ministry of Employment and Labor of Korea BERNARD P. OLALIA Administrator

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