



To all foreign nationals living in Japan:

A New Resident Registration System for Foreign Residents Will Begin July 2012*!

Start!

*Exact date of implementation will be announced at a later date

"This will replace the Alien Registration System."



MIC
Ministry of Internal Affairs
and Communications

**In accordance with
the partial amendment of
the Basic Resident Registration Act,
foreign residents will be eligible to receive
a Residence Record (*juminhyo*).**

This will make administrative procedures
at your local government simpler and more convenient.
The new system will come into effect in July 2012 and
the Alien Registration Act will
simultaneously be abolished.

*Much more
convenient!*

1. Official certificates (such as copies of the Resident Records) for households composed of both Japanese and foreign residents will now list all members regardless of nationality.

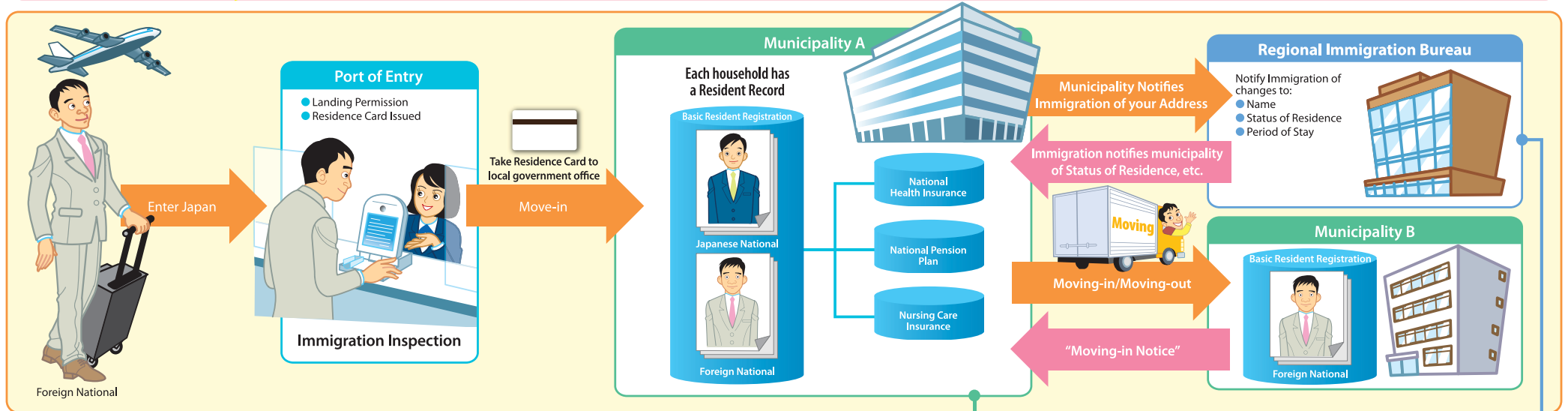


2. When notifying your municipality of a change of address, your address will automatically be changed for various government services, such as National Health Insurance, all at once.

3. In the past, you had to notify both the Regional Immigration Bureau and your municipality of changes to your status of residence and period of stay. Now you will only have to report to the Regional Immigration Bureau.

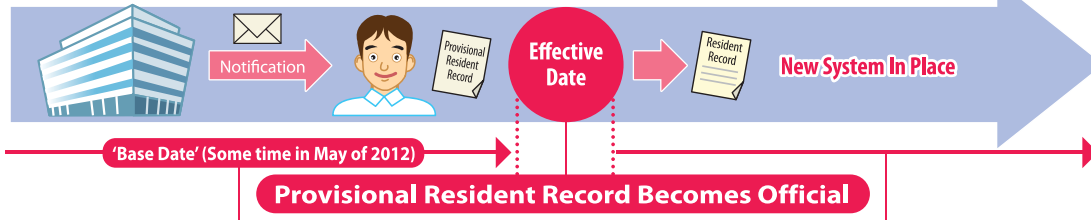


How the new system will work:



Ensuring a smooth transition to the new system...

To facilitate a smooth transition from the Alien Registration system to the Resident Registration system, local governments will issue Provisional Resident Records, and notify each foreign resident of the change. When the law comes into effect, the temporary document will automatically become the official Resident Record.



(1) Foreign residents who meet the following two criteria on the 'Base Date' will be issued a Provisional Resident Record.

- ① Those who have been issued with an Alien Registration Card by a municipality.
- ② Those who are expected to be residing in said municipality on the date the law comes into effect.

Your local government will notify you of what is listed on your Provisional Resident Record.

These details will reflect what is written on your Alien Registration Card. If there are any errors, you will be able to notify your municipality as you would normally under the current system as governed by the Alien Registration Act.

(2) If you newly fulfill the above two criteria on a date that falls between the 'Base Date' and the 'Effective Date', you will also be eligible for a Provisional Resident Record, which will be based upon your Alien Registration Card. Therefore, please complete your registration under the existing Alien Registration Act.

(3) These arrangements mean if you already have an Alien Registration Certificate you will automatically be issued a Resident Record on the day the law comes into effect. There is no need for you to fill out any extra paperwork.

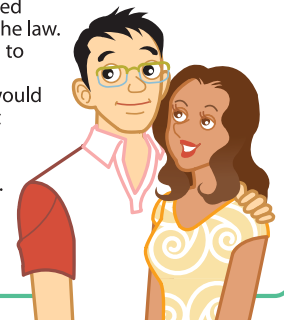
Note: If for any reason (e.g. you entered Japan immediately before the law came into effect, etc.) you are not issued a Resident Record on the day the law comes into effect, you must report your name and address to your local government within 14 days and apply for a Resident Record.



- Under the new system, the Ministry of Justice (Regional Immigration Bureaus) and municipalities will directly exchange information. Foreign residents will no longer have to report immigration-related changes to municipalities.

- The Basic Resident Registration will list all members of a single household, including Japanese and foreign nationals. Foreign residents will now be able to obtain a copy of their Resident Record.
- Up until now, households that consist of both Japanese and foreign nationals had to register under two separate systems - the Basic Resident Registration Act for Japanese nationals and the Alien Registration Act for foreign nationals. Under the new, streamlined system, the actual composition of each household will be reflected on the resident record, which will list everyone in the household regardless of nationality.
- Submitting a "notification of moving in" will automatically update your address for a range of government services, including National Health Insurance. This will reduce paperwork compared to the previous Alien Registration system.

- Authorized agents will be able submit paperwork (such as "notification of new domicile") on your behalf under the new system.
- National and local authorities, along with companies and individuals are permitted to view a portion of the information contained in the Basic Resident Registration. If a request for access is granted, foreign residents' information, along with information about Japanese nationals, will be disclosed according to the law. A valid reason to access this information would be to conduct research at an accredited university, etc.



[Basic Resident Registration]

This is a database of all residents' name, date of birth, sex and domicile, organized into household units. Registration facilitates provision of various government services to all residents. The "Basic Resident Registration Act" is the basis for this system.

[Foreign Residents]

After the "Basic Resident Registration Act" is revised, it will mainly apply to foreigners with a fixed abode who have lawfully stayed in Japan for over 3-months. Specifically, it applies to those with a Residence Card or a Special Permanent Resident Certificate.

[Residence Card]

Issued by the Ministry of Justice, this card will be provided to foreign residents when they are given permission to land in Japan for the purpose of residing here for a medium to long-term period. Administered under the revised Immigration Control Act.

Who is eligible for the Resident Record? What is listed on it?

If you are a foreign resident with a fixed abode and whose status is listed in the graph below, you will be eligible for a Resident Record. Note that temporary visitors such as tourists are not required to register. Furthermore, both foreign nationals and Japanese citizens will have the same items listed on their Resident Record, as outlined on the right.

1 Your Name/Name of the Householder and your relationship to them 2 Date of Birth 3 Sex 4 Domicile 5 Information regarding enrolment in National Health Insurance, the National Pension Plan, etc.

Besides the above, the following items apply only to foreign nationals: 1 Nationality/Region 2 Date the person became a foreign resident in Japan. In addition, the following items will be listed depending on your status.

Status	Details of Status	Items Listed
Medium to Long-Term Resident (Persons holding a Residence Card)	Foreign nationals granted a status of residence other than the following: 1) those granted permission to stay for less than 3 months 2) persons with temporary visitor/diplomat/official visa status.	- Your Status of Residence as listed on the Residence Card, period of stay and its expiration date, Residence Card number - The fact you are a Medium to Long-Term Resident.
Special Permanent Resident (Persons holding Special Permanent Resident Certificates)	Persons recognized as Special Permanent Residents under the Special Act on Immigration Control.	- The number noted on your Special Permanent Resident Certificate - The fact you are a Special Permanent Resident.
Persons granted permission for temporary refuge or provisional stay	Foreign nationals who have received a landing permit for temporary refuge pursuant to the Immigration Control Act, and those who are temporarily residing in Japan after applying for refugee status.	- Period of stay noted on the certificate of permission for temporary refuge or provisional stay - The fact you are a person granted permission for temporary refuge or provisional stay.
Persons who may continue to stay transitionally in Japan by birth or those who have lost Japanese nationality	Foreign nationals who are born in Japan to foreign parents or who have renounced Japanese nationality. Such persons may continue to stay in Japan up to 60 days without acquiring a status of residence.	The fact you are a person who may continue to stay transitionally in Japan by birth or those who have lost Japanese nationality.

* Information that was required under the Alien Registration Act, such as your domicile or residence in the country of your nationality, place of birth, occupation and passport number, will not be listed on your Resident Registration.

Please Note

If you already have an Alien Registration Certificate

- Up until the new system comes into effect, any amendments you make to your registered details under the existing Alien Registration Act will be reflected on your Provisional Resident Record. Please ensure that you notify your local government of especially important matters, including changes to your status of residence and period of stay.
- Until the new system comes into effect, please continue to follow normal procedures based on the existing Alien Registration Act.

If you newly enter Japan after the system comes into effect

- After the system comes into effect, medium to long-term residents who newly enter Japan from abroad upon a previously unused visa must submit their Residence Card* within 14 days of entry, along with other necessary paperwork, in order to register a 'moving-in notice' at your local government office. At this time, if your householder is a foreign resident, official documents to prove your relationship to them will be necessary. If these documents are in a foreign language, you must also submit a Japanese translation.

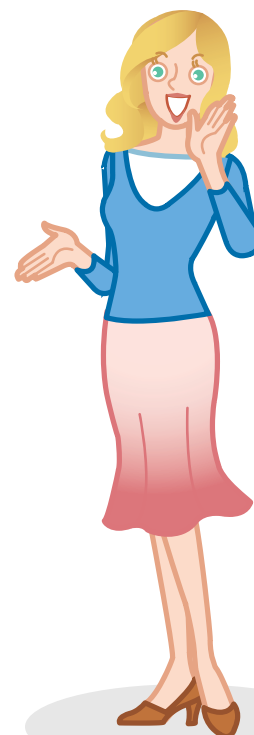
* Others: For those who do not have a Residence Card, other suitable documents include Special Permanent Resident Certificates, Certificates of Permission for Provisional Stay, Certificates of Permission for Temporary Refuge, or your passport stating that a Residence Card will be issued at a future date.

If you change your Japanese address after the new system comes into effect

- When you change address, you must apply for a "notification of moving out" and submit this to your new local government when you move in.
- You will also need either your Residence Card, your Special Permanent Resident Certificate or Alien Registration Certificate when submitting a change of address.

When moving overseas, even if you have a Re-entry Permit, you will need to submit a "notification of moving out".

Take a Look!



About the New System



Q1

Will foreign nationals currently residing in Japan have to file any paperwork to receive a Resident Record?

A1

There is no need to fill out any application if you fulfill certain basic conditions. A Provisional Resident Record will be created based on the information on your Alien Registration Card, so please ensure all information on this card is up-to-date.

Q2

What is the procedure for foreigners newly entering Japan?

A2

Once your new address is finalized, bring the Residence Card that you were issued at the port of entry and submit a "notification of moving in" to the municipality where you live. Please be aware that when the householder is a foreign resident, you will need to provide official documentation to prove your relationship to them.

Q3

What is the procedure for foreigners born in Japan?

A3

When a foreign resident gives birth in Japan, please submit a birth notice to your local municipality within 14 days. When a birth notice is submitted under the new system, the child will be listed on the resident record as a "person who may continue to stay transitionally in Japan by birth". Please note that your child needs to apply for a status of residence at your nearest Regional Immigration Bureau within 30 days of birth if your stay in Japan will exceed 60 days.

Q4

Is it true that under the new system, I will have to submit a "notification of moving out" if I change address?

A4

Yes, under the new system foreign residents will have to go through the same procedures as Japanese nationals when changing address. You will need to apply for a "notification of moving out" at the municipality where you used to live, and submit it to your new municipality as part of your 'moving-in' application.



Q5

I am a Japanese national living with my spouse who is a foreign national. Currently, I am the householder on the Resident Record but under the new system, is my spouse able to become the householder?

A5

Yes, under the new system, records of both foreign and Japanese residents will be combined into one registration and sorted by household. Foreign residents will be able to become the head of such mixed households.



Q6

Will foreign nationals be able to receive a 'Juki Card'?
(The 'Juki Card' is an ID Card that lists the information on your Resident Record.)

A6

Yes. However, it will take about one year from the commencement of the new system for foreign residents' information to be added to the Resident Registry Network. Applications will open some time after this year has elapsed.

