

Labour Immigration to Sweden

Stephen Dippel

Desk Officer

Swedish Ministry of Justice

Department for Migration and Asylum Policy

New rules for labour immigration

- **Substantial labour immigration to Sweden after World War II**
- **Labour migration restricted at the end of the 1960's**
- **New rules entered into force on December 15, 2008**

Points of departure

- **Employers best suited to understand their own recruitment needs**
 - All labour migrants need an offer of employment
 - Salary conditions and other terms of employment must be in accordance with Swedish standards
 - Employee organisations state opinion on the terms offered

Main Features of the new rules

- **Demand-driven**

- Swedish Employers decide on the need for labour from countries outside the EU/EEA
- No caps, quotas or bilateral agreements
- Community preference

Main Features of the new rules

- **Both high and lesser skilled migration**
 - Non-sectoral approach
 - Same rules apply to all skills levels and all occupations (except regulated occupations)

Main Features of the new rules

- **From temporary to permanent residency**
 - Initial temporary permit for the duration of employment, maximum of 2 years
 - One or several extensions, total duration maximum of 4 Years
 - Permanent residency after 4 years if still employed
 - Extensions processed in Sweden

Main Features of the new rules

- **Equal rights**

- Basically the same rights as Swedish citizens (voting rights excluded)
- Able to bring family from day one
- Full access to the labour market for spouses

Main Features of the new rules

- **Three month transition period**
 - 3 months to search for a new job if unemployed
 - Reduce the dependency between employers and employees

What is required to get a work permit?

- **Offer of employment**
- **Job posting advertised in EURES for 10 days**
- **Terms of employment equal to Swedish citizens or better**
- **The scope of the work must generate a monthly salary of at least 13.000 SEK (1.300 EUR)**
- **Valid Passport**

How long is the permit valid?

- **For the duration of the employment offered, but for a maximum of 2 years at the time**
- **After 4 years (48 months) eligible for a permanent residence permit**

Can I change employer?

- **Work permits are restricted to a specific occupation and employer during the first two years**
 - Possible to change employer but have to apply for a new permit
- **During the last two years work permits are restricted to specific occupation**
 - Possible to change occupation but have to apply for a new permit

More information

- <http://www.migrationsverket.se>
- <http://www.workinsweden.se> (online after December 15th, 2009)
- <http://www.sweden.se>
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eures/>

Sweden's general views on circular migration

- **Positive and naturally occurring "pattern of mobility"**
- **Not a new concept or phenomenon**
- **Natural consequence of globalized labour market**
- **Reflects trend toward more shorter-term migration as livelihood strategy**
- **"Spontaneous" and "managed" circular migration**

Parliamentary Committee on circular migration and development

- **Appointed 2 July 2009**
- 1) map examples of circular migration to and from Sweden
- 2) analyze positive and potential negative effects of circular migration to and from Sweden
- 3) analyze how migration policy, development policy and a number of other policy areas affect migrants opportunities/possibilities to engage in circular migration and/or voluntary return
- 4) propose measures to facilitate circular migration to and from Sweden and to maximize its development potential.