

**Amendment of the Criteria for the Landing Permission
for the Status of Residence “Entertainer”**

February 2005
Immigration Bureau
Ministry of Justice, Japan

The Ministry of Justice Ordinance (Ministerial Ordinance to Provide for Criteria Pursuant to Article 7, Paragraph 1(2) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act), which provides for the criteria for applicants who intend to engage in the activities described in the status of residence “Entertainer” in Japan, was amended on the 15th of February 2005, and will enter into force on the 15th of March 2005.

The amendment will delete the provision that an applicant who intends to engage in theatrical performances or musical performances for the status of residence “Entertainer” shall “meet the standards set by a foreign national or local government agency or an equivalent public or private organization”.

In accordance with this amendment, an applicant who intends to engage in theatrical performances or musical performances with the status of residence “Entertainer” is required to have spent a minimum of two (2) years at a foreign educational institution studying subjects relevant to the type of performance in which he or she will engage, or to have a minimum of two (2) years’ experience outside Japan in the type of performance in which he or she will engage; except in cases where the total amount for the applicant’s performance is 5 million yen or more a day, cases of invitation by a national or local government, and cases related to the entertainment industry other than public entertainment activities, such as the recording of commercial music.

Meanwhile, the previous criteria will be applied to the following cases:

1. When an applicant applies for issuance of a certificate of eligibility on or before the 14th of March 2005.
2. When an applicant, who has a certificate of eligibility or a passport with a visa issued on or before the 14th of March 2005, applies for landing in Japan on or after the 15th of March 2005.
3. When an applicant, who has a certificate of eligibility issued on or after the 15th of March 2005 based upon an application made on or before the 14th of March 2005, applies for landing in Japan.