

Notification of Changes in the Specified Skilled No. 1 Assessment Test for Manufacturing Industry and Addition of Specified Skilled Worker No. 2

■ Changes in the Specified Skilled No. 1 Assessment Test for Manufacturing Industry

The following changes will be made to the Specified Skilled No. 1 Assessment Test for Manufacturing Industry in fiscal year 2023.

1. Change of the examination categories

In August 2022, the Cabinet decided to integrate the 19 business categories in the manufacturing industry into three categories. Accordingly, the examination categories will be changed in stages starting this year. When taking the examination, please pay attention to the examination category. For example, questions after the change, please check the sample questions.

In FY2023, examinees can select skills from 19 skills in the 3 examination categories, as FY2023 is in the transitional period following the integration.

	Machining and Metal Processing	Electric and electronic equipment assembly	Metal surface treatment
Written examination	(1) Common questions in the category	(1) Common questions in the category	(1) Common questions in the category
	(2) Multiple-choice questions (15 subjects) - Casting - Die casting - Metal press - Factory sheet metal work - Forging - Iron work - Machining - Finishing - Plastic molding - Welding - Painting - Electric equipment assembling - Machine inspection - Machine maintenance - Industrial packaging	(2) Multiple-choice questions (9 subjects) - Machining - Finishing - Plastic molding - Electric equipment assembling - Electronic equipment assembling - Print wiring board manufacturing - Machine inspection - Machine maintenance - Industrial packaging	(2) Multiple-choice questions (2 subjects) - Electroplating - Aluminum anodizing
Practical skill examination	Multiple-choice questions (19 subjects) --- Multiple-choice questions are for the same subject as in the written examination. Casting, forging, die casting, machining, metal press, iron work, factory sheet metal work, Electroplating, aluminum anodizing, finishing, machine inspection, machine maintenance, electronic equipment assembling, electric equipment assembling, print wiring board manufacturing, plastic molding, painting, welding, industrial packaging		

(Reference: Announced in August 2022) [Revision of the System for Foreign Human Resources with Specified Skills \(Manufacturing Industry\)](#)

As for the practical skill examination, work such as fabrication was tested in the welding subject until FY2022, but from FY2023 onward, it will be tested by examinations, as is the case for other subjects. Alternatively, it will be tested using the paper test method.

2. Change of examination time

In consideration of past examinations and the amount of examination time in other industries, the examination time will be changed as follows. For details, please refer to the examination guide.

	Before change	After change
Examination time	Written examination: 60 minutes, practical skill examination: 60 minutes	80 minutes for the written and practical skill examinations in total

3. Language changes in overseas examinations

In consideration of the survey results from past examinations and the examination language in other industries, the examination language will be changed as follows. Please note that the examination language is Japanese for those taking the exam outside of Japan. For example, questions after the change, please check the sample questions.

	Before change	After change
Language in examination	Language of the country where the test is conducted	Japanese

4. Revision of examination fees and pass certificate issuance fees

Due to the rise in various costs related to testing, such as the costs for the preparation of new examination questions and revision of existing questions, and the transportation and production of materials, as well as costs for venues and human resources, the examination fee and the fee for issuing a pass certificate will be revised as follows in consideration of the level of examination fees in other industries.

	Before change	After change
Examination fee for the Specified Skilled No. 1 Assessment Test (For both Japan and overseas)	2,000 yen	8,000 yen
Fee for issuing a pass certificate for the specified skills	-	15,000 yen *Applicable from applications filed on or after July 1, 2023.

(Note) Applicants who passed the exam in FY2022 or before will also need to pay the fee for issuing a pass certificate if they apply (or re-apply) for the pass certificate on or after July 1, 2023.

■ Addition of Specified Skilled Worker No. 2 in the Manufacturing Industry

In June 2023, the Cabinet decided that the machine parts and tooling, industrial machinery and electric, electronics and information industries are subject to the Specified Skilled Worker No. 2 system. Specified Skilled Worker No. 2 is a status of residence for foreign nationals engaged in work requiring proficient skills. With this status, foreign human resources who have acquired proficient skills through experience in the system for foreign human resources with specified skills No. 1 will be able to continue to work in the manufacturing industry as skilled workers or in management positions.

	Specified Skilled Worker No. 1	Specified Skilled Worker No. 2
Term of residence	Renewed for a period not exceeding one year, as specified by the Minister of Justice for each foreign national, for a maximum stay up to five years in total	Renewed every 3 years, 1 year or 6 months, no upper limit
Skill standards	Checked by examinations, etc. (Foreigners who have successfully completed Technical Intern Training No. 2 are exempt from the examination, etc. requirement)	Checked by examinations, etc.
Japanese language level	Japanese language skills necessary for daily life and work are checked through examinations, etc. (Foreigners who have completed Technical Intern Training No. 2 are exempt from the examination, etc. requirement)	Check by examination, etc. is not required in principle.
Estimated number of accepted workers (upper limit)	Yes	No
Accompaniment by family members	Basically, not permitted	Permitted if requirements are met (spouse, children)
Support	Eligible for support by accepting organizations or registered support organizations	Not eligible for support by accepting organizations or registered support organizations

For other information on test No. 2 (requirements for obtaining the status of residence, outline of the implementation of the Specified Skilled No. 2 Assessment Test for Manufacturing Industry, etc.), please visit the portal site (https://www.sswm.go.jp/exam_f_02/). (Japanese language only)



*The Specified Skilled No. 2 Assessment Test in FY2023 is planned to be conducted in Japan only.