

Foreign Worker Health Examination Q&A

Revised May 15, 2017

The chief statutes governing foreign worker health examination consist of The Employment Services Act (date of the newest revision: November 3, 2016; hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and The Regulations Governing Management of the Health Examination of Employed Aliens (date of the newest revision: May 5, 2017; hereinafter referred to as "the Regulations").

Common questions		page
Q1	What are the requirements and the items of the foreign worker health examination before foreign workers come to Taiwan?	4
Q2	What are the requirements and the items of the foreign worker health examination after foreign workers have arrived in Taiwan?	4
Q3	Foreign workers' periodic health examinations are stipulated with a buffer period of 30 days (within 30 days before or after the days of 6, 18 and 30 months of the starting date). If a foreign worker's new employment permit is effective within the buffer period, and it is his or her old employment permit effective period now, does he or she have to undergo the periodic health examination according to the old employment permit effective date?	6
Q4	What is the implementation method of Paragraph 1, Article 11 of the Regulations, where it states "When Category 2 Aliens are reissued the employment permit because of changing employers or jobs or according to the Act, their employers shall arrange for them to undergo a health examination (supplementary health examination) at a designated hospital within seven days from the next	6

	day following employment if they have not undergone a health examination for more than one year" ?	
Q5	What are the guiding principles of Paragraph 3, Article 11 of the Regulations, where it states " If the time between the day of 6 months of the employment permit effective date and the date of the last health examination is shorter than 5 months, the 6-month periodic health examination is exempted" ?	7
Q6	What are the supporting measures for the foreign workers who are unable to undergo health examinations in accordance with the Regulations due to the revisions of the Regulations that became effective on May 7, 2017?	8
Q7	What unit should foreign workers submit their health examination certificates and following re-examination certificates or treatment completion certificates to?	8
Q8	What should the employers do if their foreign employees fail the health examination?	9
Q9	How do the foreign workers who are positive for amoebic dysentery receive medical treatment?	10
Q10	How do foreign workers who are positive for amoebic dysentery undergo re-examination after treatment? How are the cases recorded for reference?	11
Q11	Can foreign workers whose employment permits had been revoked due to infection of amoebic dysentery return to Taiwan after returning to their home countries?	11
Q12	What are the criteria of passing and failing the chest X-ray examination for tuberculosis?	12
Q13	What should the employers do if their foreign employees are diagnosed with tuberculosis after undergoing a health examination or receiving medical care for illness?	12
Q14	How do the foreign workers diagnosed with tuberculosis	13

	or Hansen's disease seek medical treatment in Taiwan?	
Q15	Can foreign workers whose employment permits had been revoked due to tuberculosis return to Taiwan after returning to their home countries?	14
Q16	What are the stipulations concerning the diagnosis of Hansen's disease of the foreign worker health examination?	15
Q17	What infectious diseases may justify the revocation of a foreign worker's employment permit?	15
Q18	What arrangements should the employers make if their foreign employees suffer from infectious diseases?	15
	Stipulations concerning the schedule of the periodic health examinations of Category 2 employed aliens (foreign workers)	17

Q1 : What are the requirements and the items of the foreign worker health examination before foreign workers come to Taiwan?

A :

1. Foreign workers must submit health examination certificates issued by an authorized hospital in their home country within the recent three months when applying for entry visa.
2. A list of authorized hospitals in foreign workers' home countries is available on the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control website: <http://www.cdc.gov.tw> > Health topics > Foreigners' health > List of authorized hospitals overseas
3. The items of the foreign worker health examination before foreign workers come to Taiwan include:
 - (1) Chest X-ray examination for tuberculosis;
 - (2) Examination for Hansen's disease;
 - (3) Serological test for syphilis;
 - (4) Stool examination for intestinal parasites;
 - (5) Physical examination;
 - (6) Proof of positive measles and rubella antibody or measles and rubella vaccination certificates.

Q2 : What are the requirements and the items of the foreign worker health examination after foreign workers have arrived in Taiwan?

A :

1. Foreign workers must undergo health examinations at a designated hospital within 3 working days of their arrival in Taiwan (hereinafter referred to as "health examination within 3 days of arrival") and within 30 days before or after the days of 6, 18, and 30 months of the starting date (hereinafter referred to as "periodic health examinations").
2. If a foreign worker is unable to undergo health examination within 3 days of arrival in time for reasons, the examination may be done within an extension of 3 working days. If a foreign worker is unable to undergo

a periodic health examination in time for reasons, relevant certifying documents must be submitted to the local competent health authority for reference, and the worker may undergo periodic health examination within 7 days before or after the reasons disappear.

3. The definition of the starting date of periodic health examinations:
 - (1) If the employment permit was issued before November 4, 2016, the starting date is "the date of entry".
 - (2) If the employment permit was issued after November 5, 2016, the starting date is "the work start date".
4. To look up the actual dates of periodic health examinations, please visit the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control website: <https://goo.gl/8i9X7X>. Select the first item from the list, and enter a foreign worker's "starting date of periodic health examinations" to find out the dates within which periodic health examinations should be done.
5. A list of designated hospitals in Taiwan is available on the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control website: <http://www.cdc.gov.tw> > Health topics > Foreigners' Health > List of designated hospitals in Taiwan
6. The items of the foreign worker health examination after foreign workers have arrived in Taiwan include:
 - (1) Chest X-ray examination for tuberculosis;
 - (2) Examination for Hansen's disease;
 - (3) Serological test for syphilis;
 - (4) Stool examination for intestinal parasites;
 - (5) Physical examination;
 - (6) Indonesian workers must have an additional examination for typhoid, paratyphoid, and bacillary dysentery as part of their health examination within 3 days of arrival.

Q3 : Foreign workers' periodic health examinations are stipulated with a buffer period of 30 days (within 30 days before or after the days of 6, 18 and 30 months of the starting date). If a foreign worker's new employment permit is effective within the buffer period, and it is his or her old employment permit effective period now, does he or she have to undergo the periodic health examination according to the old employment permit effective date?

A :

1. Yes; it is recommended that the worker undergo the periodic health examination according to the old employment permit effective date.
2. If the periodic health examination is skipped, and the time between the worker's work start date and the last health examination (It can be health examination within 3 days of arrival, periodic health examination, or supplementary health examination.) is longer than 1 year, the new employer must arrange for their foreign employees to undergo a supplementary health examination within 7 days from the next day following employment. After the supplementary health examination, the employers shall arrange for periodic health examinations within 30 days before or after the days of 6, 18 and 30 months of the employment permit effective date.

Q4 : What is the implementation method of Paragraph 1, Article 11 of the Regulations, where it states "When Category 2 Aliens are reissued the employment permit because of changing employers or jobs or according to the Act, their employers shall arrange for them to undergo a health examination (supplementary health examination) at a designated hospital within seven days from the next day following employment if they have not undergone a health examination for more than one year" ?

A :

1. The employer (agent) must check the date of the foreign worker's

previous health examination according to the Regulations (It can be health examination within 3 days of arrival, periodic health examination, or supplementary health examination.) when visiting the local competent labor administrative authority to submit "employment notification (Form A-14)". If the employees have not undergone a health examination for more than 1 year, the new employer shall arrange for them to undergo a supplementary health examination within 7 days from the next day following employment.

2. As prescribed in Article 7 of the Regulations, the certificates of health examination within 3 days of arrival and periodic health examinations shall be forwarded to the foreign worker for safekeeping. The employer (agent) can ask their foreign employees about the date of the previous health examination. If the employer (agent) has no way of knowing the date, the employer (agent) can contact the local competent health authority or labor administrative authority for assistance.
3. The stipulation of supplementary health examination prescribed in the Regulations is non-retroactive, and shall be implemented from May 7, 2017), on which the revisions of the Regulations took effect.

Q5 : What are the guiding principles of Paragraph 3, Article 11 of the Regulations, where it states " If the time between the day of 6 months of the employment permit effective date and the date of the last health examination is shorter than 5 months, the 6-month periodic health examination is exempted" ?

A :

1. "The employment permit effective date" is "the work start date". Some foreign workers who changed employers before their employment permit had expired shall undergo periodic health examinations according to the date of entry originally. After the revisions of the Regulations becomes effective, the dates of their periodic health examinations shall be based on the work start date as

long as the employment permits were issued after November 5, 2016. In order to avoid foreign workers from undergoing health examinations within a short period of time, which results in their burden, this provision has been added to the Regulations.

2. The calculation of 5-month retrospect: Subtract 5 from the month, and add 1 to the day. If there is no corresponding day after subtracting 5 from the month, then it is based on the next day of the final day of the month.

Example: A foreign worker's work start date was February 1, 2017, and the date of 6 month of the employment permit effective date is August 1, 2017. If the foreign worker has a record of a periodic health examination after March 2, 2017, the worker is exempt from this 6-month periodic health examination.

Q6 : What are the supporting measures for the foreign workers who are unable to undergo health examinations in accordance with the Regulations due to the revisions of the Regulations that became effective on May 7, 2017?

A : The Ministry of Health and Welfare has already provided a 60-day buffer period for this kind of cases. Employers shall arrange for their foreign employees to undergo periodic health examinations before July 4, 2017.

Q7 : What unit should foreign workers submit their health examination certificates and following re-examination certificates or treatment completion certificates to?

A :

1. The original copy of the health examination certificates shall be forwarded to foreign workers for safekeeping.
2. If the results of health examination within 3 days of arrival include failed items, or a further examination is required (such as cases with suspected tuberculosis or Hansen's disease who require re-

examination in a designated institution, or cases with syphilis who require treatment completion certificates or cases with parasite who require re-examination followed by treatment), after obtaining a re-examination certificates or treatment completion certificates, the employer shall submit them to the Workforce Development Agency for reference.

3. If the results of periodic health examinations include failed items, or a further examination is required, the employer shall submit the re-examination certificates (or treatment completion certificates) and employment permits to the local competent health authority for reference within 15 days from the next day after receiving the re-examination certificates or treatment completion certificates.

Q8 : What should the employers do if their foreign employees fail the health examination?

A :

1. If a foreign worker has a positive result for the stool test for intestinal parasites (not *Entamoeba histolytica*), the worker should obtain a negative re-examination certificate after treatment at a designated hospital within 65 days from the next day after receiving the health examination certificate, and submit the documents as specified in Q7 for reference.
2. If a foreign worker has a positive result of *Entamoeba histolytica*, the worker should obtain a negative re-examination certificate three times following treatment at a designated hospital within 65 days from receiving the health examination certificate, and submit the documents as specified in Q7 for reference; Q9-Q11 for further details.
3. If a foreign worker has a positive result for the serological test for syphilis, the worker should obtain a treatment completion certificate within 30 days from the next day after receiving the health examination certificate, and submit the documents as specified in Q7 for reference.

4. If the result of chest X-ray examination for tuberculosis is tuberculosis suspect or pending, the designated hospital should inform the employer to assist the foreign worker in visiting a designated institution for re-examination with the health examination certificate and chest X-ray within 15 days from the next day after receiving health examination certificate; the following procedures after obtaining re-examination certificate are specified in Q7. Please refer to Q13-15 for the treatment procedures of confirmed cases of tuberculosis.
5. If the result of the examination for Hansen's disease is further examination required, the foreign worker should visit a designated institution for re-examination within 15 days from the next day after receiving health examination certificate; the following procedures after obtaining re-examination certificate are specified in Q7. Please refer to Q16 for the regulations concerning the examination for Hansen's disease, and Q14 for treatment procedures for confirmed cases of Hansen's disease.

Q9 : How do the foreign workers who are positive for amoebic dysentery receive medical treatment?

A : The foreign workers who are positive for amoebic dysentery should receive treatment at a designated hospital, and the hospital shall apply for the drugs with the regional center under the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control. The employer is asked to assist the foreign worker remit the payment for the drugs (self-paid, approximately NT\$3,000-7,000) to the account designated by the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control, and submit the remittance receipt to the hospital. The designated hospital must contact the regional center by telephone in advance to confirm the application, and fax the "Application Form for Specially-Imported Anti-parasitic Drug" and the remittance receipt together to the regional center; the regional center will send the drugs by Express Mail to the designated hospital, which shall forward the

drugs to the foreign worker.

Q10 : How do foreign workers who are positive for amoebic dysentery undergo re-examination after treatment? How are the cases be recorded for reference?

A :

1. After a foreign worker has completed the treatment and stopped the medication for 1 month, the local competent health authority shall supervise the employer's arrangement of collection of specimens from the foreign worker for 3 times within 7 days (the time interval is at least 24 hours apart); the specimens shall be sent to the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control for re-examination.
2. If the case is detected by a health examination within 3 days of arrival, the employer should submit the official letter of re-examination result sent out by local competent health authority to the Ministry of Labor for future reference. If the case is detected by a periodic health examination, the employer just retain the official letter of re-examination result sent out by the local competent health authority.

Q11 : Can foreign workers whose employment permits had been revoked due to infection of amoebic dysentery return to Taiwan after retruning to their home countries?

A : If a foreign worker whose employment permit had been revoked due to infection of amoebic dysentery, the National Immigration Agency shall implement entry ban according to the "Operational Directions for the Entry Ban on Foreign Nationals" until the person has been cured. The foreign worker must continue to receive treatment until cured after returning to his or her home country, and obtain a "Proof of Drug Treatment of Amoebic Dysentery" issued by an authorized hospital (The proof must be translated into Chinese or English, and the content must include the name of the drug(s) and the course of treatment. It must be endorsed by a Taiwan representative office overseas). The

proof shall be sent to the National Immigration Agency to apply for cancellation of entry ban before applying for entry visa.

Q12 : What are the criteria of passing and failing the chest X-ray examination for tuberculosis?

A :

1. Criteria:

- (1) The diagnosis of active pulmonary tuberculosis or tuberculous pleurisy is considered "failed".
- (2) The diagnosis of inactive tuberculosis fibrotic (calcified) tuberculosis, fibrotic (calcified) lesions, and pleura thickening is considered "passed".
- (3) Pregnant women could undergo sputum smear examination for 3 times at a designated institution instead of chest X-ray examination for tuberculosis. If any of the results is positive (with the exception of the specimen with a negative result for the nucleic acid amplification test), the case is considered "failed".

2. A list of designated institutions is posted on the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control website: <http://www.cdc.gov.tw> > Health topics > Foreigners' health > List of designated institutions of chest X-ray examination for tuberculosis (for re-examination)

Q13 : What should the employers do if their foreign employees are diagnosed with tuberculosis after undergoing a health examination or receiving medical care for illness?

A :

1. If a foreign worker has tuberculosis, the employer shall apply with the local competent health authority for the directly observed treatment short-course (DOTS) service (please refer to Q14).
2. If the employer has not applied for the DOTS service on behalf of the foreign employee, after receiving the employment revocation issued by the Ministry of Labor, the employer must help the worker return to his

or her home country. In principle, the cases with positive result of the sputum smear test must receive treatment for two weeks before they can take an airplane back to their home countries. The cases with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis cannot take an airplane back to their home countries until the result of the sputum culture is negative.

3. Employers must take care of foreign workers in accordance with the "The proposal of life management and care service for foreigner". If employers do not take care of their foreign employees and make improvements within a limited time after receiving the notification from the local competent labor administrative authority, they will not be issued a recruiting permit (Or their foreign employees may not be allowed to enter Taiwan), or an employment permit, or an employment permit extension.
4. The employers must obtain an official letter about the failed health examination or the notification of their foreign employees diagnosing with infectious diseases, or the termination of the contract with both parties' agreement prior to assisting the foreign workers return to their home countries and employment revocation.

Q14 : How do the foreign workers diagnosed with tuberculosis or Hansen's disease seek medical treatment in Taiwan?

A :

1. Applicable individuals: Foreign workers confirmed to have active tuberculosis, tuberculous pleurisy, or Hansen's disease, except multidrug-resistant cases.
2. Procedures for seeking treatment in Taiwan: Submit the following documents to the local competent health authority within 15 days from the next day after receiving the re-examination certificate:
 - (1) The diagnosis certificate
 - (2) The employer's consent form to assist employed foreigners to receive DOTS

(3) The employed foreigner's consent form to receive the DOTS service arranged by the health agencies

3. After foreign workers have completed the DOTS medication therapy and been confirmed to complete the treatment by the local competent health authority, they are deemed "passed". The foreign workers who have not undergone re-examination, failed re-examination and not applied for the DOTS service, or not cooperated with the DOTS service for more than 15 days, or confirmed to have multiple drug resistant tuberculosis shall be considered to have failed their health examination, and the Ministry of Labor will revoke their employment permits.
4. If a foreign worker is unable to complete the treatment during his or her employment period, they should continue to receive treatment after returning to his or her home country as a transnational referral.

Q15 : Can foreign workers whose employment permits had been revoked due to tuberculosis return to Taiwan after returning to their home countries?

A : If a foreign worker whose employment permit had been revoked due to tuberculosis, the National Immigration Agency shall implement entry ban according to the "Operational Directions for the Entry Ban on Foreign Nationals" until the person has been cured. Under such circumstances, the foreign worker must continue to receive treatment until cured after going back to his or her home country, and obtain a "Proof of Tuberculosis Case Management and Completion of Treatment" or case history abstract issued by an authorized hospital (The proof or case history abstract must be translated into Chinese or English; the content must include the name of the drug(s) used, course of treatment, chest X-ray results, sputum smear results, and sputum culture results after treatment. It must be endorsed by a Taiwan's representative office abroad). The documents shall be sent to the National Immigration Agency to apply for cancellation of entry ban

before applying for entry visa.

Q16 : What are the stipulations concerning the diagnosis of Hansen's disease of the foreign worker health examination?

A :

1. The diagnosis of Hansen's disease consists of a whole-body skin examination. The persons being examined may wear underwear to undergo the examination, and being accompanied by their friends, relatives, or female medical personnel. The different body parts are gradually examined, and the persons' privacy is secured in accordance with the "Outpatient Medical Privacy Maintenance Regulations."
2. When suspected lesions of Hansen' s disease are discovered, the competent authority shall be informed in accordance with the Communicable Disease Control Act. Foreign workers suspected of Hansen' s disease shall visit a designated institution for re-examination within 15 days from the next day after receiving the health examination certificate.
3. A list of designated institution is available on the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control website: <http://www.cdc.gov.tw> > Health topics > Foreigners' health > List of designated institutions of chest X-ray examination for tuberculosis (for re-examination)

Q17 : What infectious diseases may justify the revocation of a foreign worker's employment permit?

A : The employment permit of foreign workers suffering from multiple drug resistant tuberculosis shall be revoked. If foreign workers suffering from active tuberculosis, tuberculous pleurisy, Hansen's disease, or amoebic dysentery seek treatment in Taiwan and comply with the health agency's disease prevention measures, they will be allowed to work in Taiwan, or their employment permit shall be revoked.

Q18 : What arrangements should the employers make if their foreign

employees suffer from infectious diseases?

A :

1. If foreign workers suffering from an infectious disease require hospitalization following diagnosis and treatment by a physician, they must receive treatment in a hospital; if they do not require hospitalization, the employer should provide an appropriate place for recovering.
2. For foreign workers suspected of tuberculosis or confirmed with tuberculosis who wait to return to their home countries, the employer should provide a well-ventilated single room, and the workers must wear surgical face masks until sputum smear examination results indicate no bacteria.
3. For foreign workers with infectious diseases of intestinal tract, they are required to enhance their personal hygiene: The toilets should be provided with sufficient tissue paper, and they must always wash their hands with soap and water after using the toilet to avoid contaminating the environment and handles. In principle, the toilet, the sink, and any places (such as the toilet seat and door handle, etc.) contacted by the cases must be disinfected. It is recommended that the patients use their own toilet as much as possible. They are not allowed to engage in jobs in the food industry, as well as attend to patients or children when they are sick.

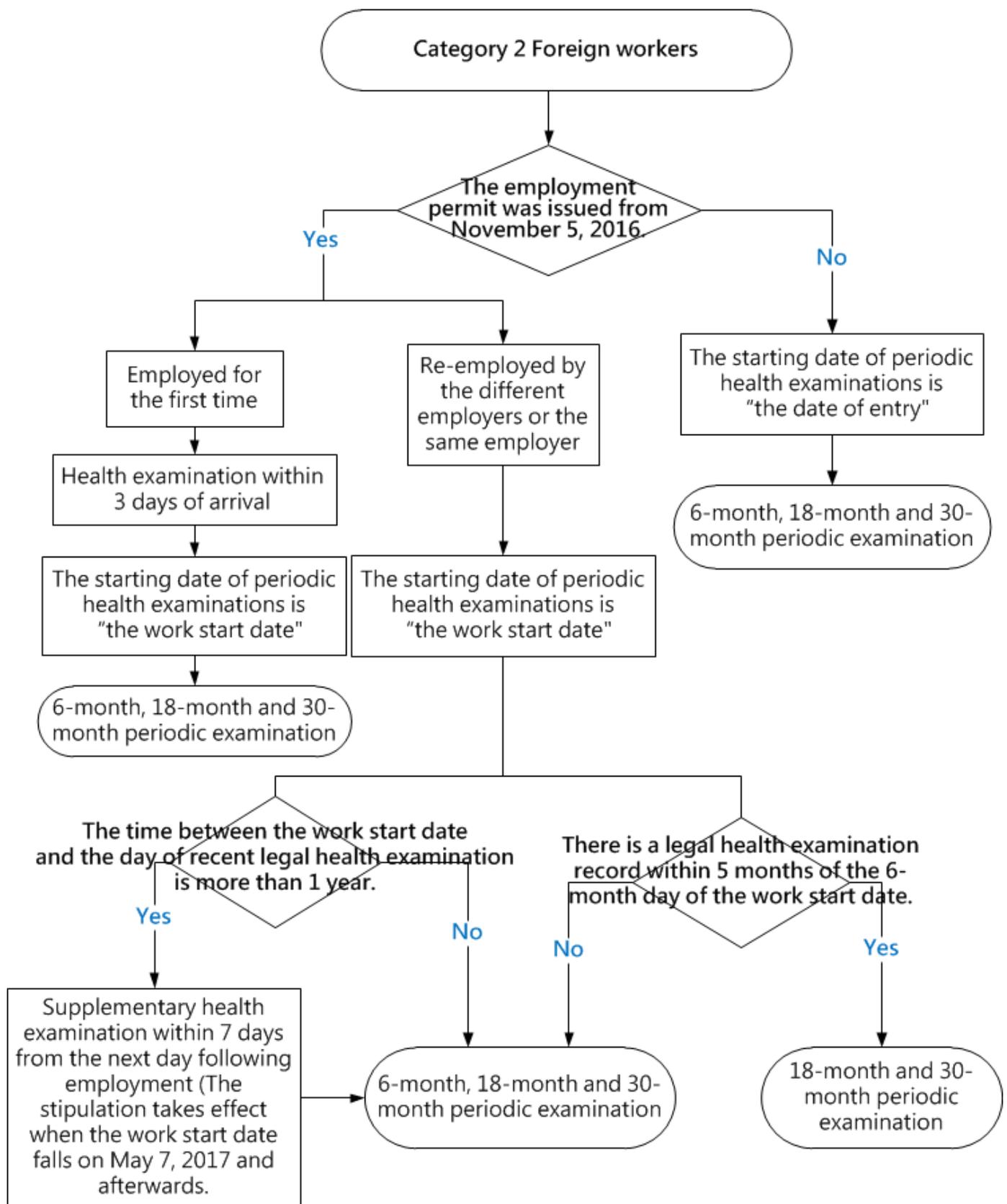


Fig : Stipulation concerning the schedule of the periodic health examination for category 2 foreign workers