

# Mexico work permit application process

Adjustments brought by the visa policy change for Mexican nationals, as of February 29, 2024

Embassy of Canada in Mexico  
March 2024



# Today's Presentation

1. Highlights and Context
2. What remains the same
3. What's changed



# Highlights

As of 11:30 p.m. ET on February 29, 2024, Mexican nationals need to meet new requirements to travel to Canada as tourists, business travellers, or for stays less than six months:

- Mexican citizens will need a visa to travel to Canada, unless they are eligible to apply for an eTA under the new rules.
- eTAs issued to visitors before this change have been automatically cancelled.
- eTAs issued to Mexican nationals **with a work permit where not cancelled** (this also applies to workers with a letter of approval and those that did not yet travel to Canada to have their work permit printed).

## What visitors can apply for an eTA under the new rules?

- You're eligible for an eTA if you meet all 3 requirements:
  - 1) You're coming to Canada for a short visit (normally for stays of up to 6 months);
  - 2) You're using a valid Mexican passport **to fly** to Canada or to transit through a Canadian airport to another destination; and
  - 3) You either
    - a. have held a Canadian temporary resident visitor visa in the past 10 years, **or**
    - b. currently hold a valid U.S. [nonimmigrant](#) visa.



# Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations

## Nationals of certain countries

**7.01 (1)** Despite subsection 7(1), a foreign national who is a citizen of a country listed in the table to this subsection and who is seeking to enter Canada by air may not enter Canada to remain on a temporary basis without first obtaining a temporary resident visa or an electronic travel authorization.

## Application for electronic travel authorization — conditions

(2) A foreign national referred to in subsection (1) may only make an application for an electronic travel authorization if they

(a) have held a temporary resident visa at any time during the 10-year period immediately preceding the day on which they make their application; or

(b) hold a valid United States nonimmigrant visa on the day on which they make their application.

Period of validity

**12.05 (1)** An electronic travel authorization is valid for a period of five years from the day on which it is issued to the applicant or until the earliest of the following days, if they occur before the end of that period:

(d) the day on which the country or authority referred to in paragraph 190(1)(a) that issued the passport or other travel document in respect of which the electronic travel authorization was issued is no longer referred to in that paragraph.

Exception — Mexico Exception — Mexique

(1.2) Paragraph (1)(d) does not apply to an electronic travel authorization issued to a foreign national who is a citizen of Mexico if, on the same day referred to in that paragraph, the foreign national holds a work permit or study permit.

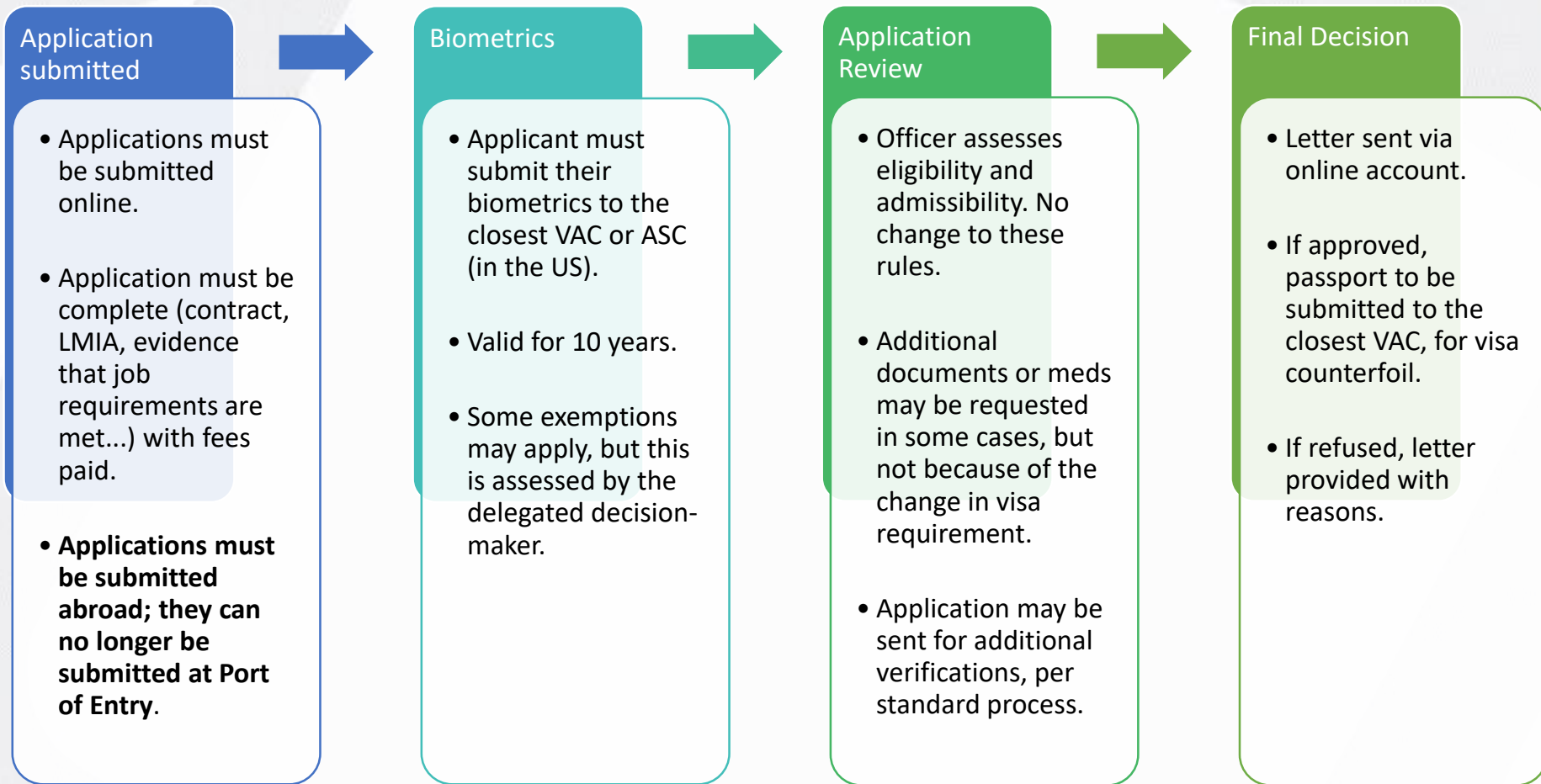


# What does not change in the work permit application process?

- ✓ Process fees – no additional visa application is required
- ✓ Process delays – **work permit applications are prioritized, once completed applications are received and biometrics are enrolled** (excluding shipping of passports delays)
- ✓ Eligibility and admissibility conditions
  - ✓ The same conditions applies to spouses, common-in-law partners, and dependants
- ✓ Biometrics requirements and 10 year validity

Important: the new rules regarding access to eTA (previous Canadian visa or current valid American visa) applies only to visitors, not to workers or students that are outside of Canada.

# Work permit application process



**\*Important: IRCC communicates with clients via their online account.**

Applicants should check their online account for status updates and any communications from IRCC. Any requests for additional updates should be sent via IRCC's online webform:

<https://secure.cic.gc.ca/ClientContact/en/Application>

# Port of Entry

- The partial visa imposed on February 29, 2024 has ended access by Mexican nationals to the Port of Entry for new Work Permit applications
  - Per regulations, Work Permit applications must be submitted abroad

## Eligibility requirements if you apply when you enter Canada at a port of entry

You should apply for your work permit **before** you travel to Canada.

However, you can apply for a work permit when you enter Canada if you're eligible.

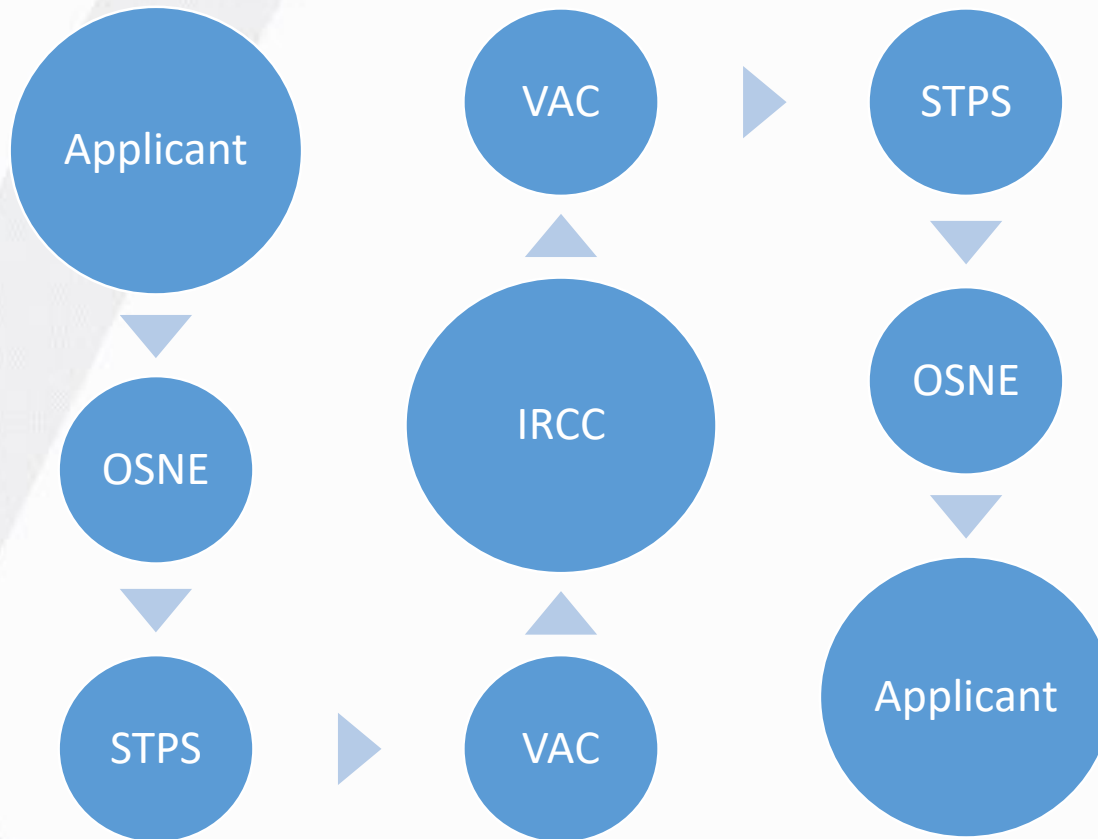
To apply at a port of entry (POE), you must meet **all** of the following:

- be from a [visa-exempt country](#)
- be eligible for an electronic travel authorization or to travel without a visitor visa
- meet other requirements depending on the type of work permit you're applying for (see below)

You **cannot** apply at a POE if you

- need a visitor visa
- are a citizen of one of the [countries on this list](#)
- are an International Experience Canada applicant who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- are applying under the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program

# Passport delivery process chart



\*Applicants may choose to submit and/or pick up their passports directly at the VAC

\*Applicants **cannot** submit or pick up their passports or any other document at the Embassy of Canada



# Changes in work permit application process after approval

## Previous process

- The applicant receives an online letter of provisional approval containing an eTA number
- The applicant can travel to Canada

## New process

- The applicant receives a passport request letter
- The applicant submits their passport to IRCC through VAC
- IRCC affixes the visa and returns the passport
- The applicant can travel to Canada



# To note...

- Workers who are currently working in Canada with an eTA and work permit are *not* affected and can continue to work until the expiry of their work permit. They can also enter and leave Canada by air, as long as their eTA remains valid.
- The visa now gives workers the possibility to travel to/from Canada by land or sea
  - Note that the eTA only allows travel by air; however if an eTA holder in Canada travels only to the U.S., and then directly returns to Canada while in status, they are exempted from the visa requirement (also known as the contiguous territory exemption)
- If modifications to the LMIA are made after the approval of the application and the issuance of the visa, or in any situation where the visa needs to be re-issued, the passports will have to be submitted again at a visa office through the VAC, to print a new visa.

# Resources

- **New email address for eTA:** [MexicoETA.AVE@international.gc.ca](mailto:MexicoETA.AVE@international.gc.ca)
- **IRCC website:** [www.Canada.ca/Immigration](http://www.Canada.ca/Immigration)
- **IRCC Webform for all types of inquiries:**  
<https://secure.cic.gc.ca/ClientContact/en/Application>
- **Come to Canada Wizard:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/come-canada-tool.html>
- **IRCC Help Centre:** <https://ircc.canada.ca/english/helpcentre/results-by-topic.asp?top=16>
- **General inquiries:** [MXICOIMMIGRATION@international.gc.ca](mailto:MXICOIMMIGRATION@international.gc.ca)



Questions?

