



Eastern European Countries: Simplified Procedures for Coming to Work in France

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On 1 May 2004, ten new countries joined the European Union. Two of these countries, Malta and Cyprus, benefited from the free movement of people and workers beginning on the date of accession: since 1 May 2004, Maltese and Cypriots are free to come to work in France without a work permit or a temporary residence permit (*carte de séjour*).

Nationals from the eight other countries—Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia—were first subject to a transition period of two years, during which they still needed to get a work permit and a temporary residence permit if they came to France to work. This transition period has now ended, but the provisions in place have only been partially lifted. The accession treaties provided for these provisions to be prolonged for a period of three years.

The French government decided to **prolong this transition period until 1 May 2009, yet reducing some of the restrictions as of 1 May 2006**. The French government came up with a list of seven activity sectors and 61 professions for which some of the administrative formalities are lighter. These sectors are the following:

(1) Construction and public works; (2) hotel, restaurant and food service industry; (3) agriculture; (4) mechanics, metal works and various industries; (5) process industry; (6) trade and sales; (7) hygiene industry.

These sectors correspond to areas in the French economy where employers are having trouble recruiting enough manpower. According to the French embassy in Hungary, these 61 professions “represented nearly 700,000 job offers in 2005 (20% of all job offers on the labour market), of which on average a third remain unfilled”. This embassy adds that, in addition, they include “both professions requiring low-level qualifications and those requiring very qualified workers”.

Administrative formalities have been simplified for these professions. The list of professions can be found in the appendix. A French employer who wants to hire a national from one of these eight countries for one of the 61 professions **still has to apply for a work permit** from the local labour authority offices (DDTEFP). But, he **no longer has to run an ad at the national employment agency (ANPE)** before filing the application with the DDTEFP. The latter **cannot refuse the application on grounds of the employment situation**.

Once the foreign national arrives in France, he or she must still apply for a residence permit (*carte de séjour*) from the local government administrative offices (*Préfecture*) of his/her place of residence, if he/she remains in France longer than three months.

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APPENDIX List of 61 Profession (source: French Embassy in Hungary)

CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC WORKS	
	Public works sector, concrete extraction
	Public works worker
	Concrete worker
	Solids extraction worker
	Construction Sector (carcass)
	Masonry worker
	Ironworker
	Carpenter
	Layer (hard coverings) (ex: tile setter)
	Layer (soft surfaces) (Ex.: carpet layer)
	Construction Sector (light work)
	Roofer
	Woodwork setter (carpenter, locksmith)
	Gypsum board and fixture setter (Ex.: stand installer, kitchen installer)
	Construction and public works technicians and supervisors
	Drafter
	Surveyor
	Technical advisor
	Site superintendent
	Works foreman
HOTEL, RESTAURANT AND FOOD SERVICE INDUSTRY	
	Floor worker
	Cook
	Multi-skilled restaurant worker
	Restaurant waitperson
	Butcher
AGRICULTURE	
	Market gardener-horticulturist (seasonal workers only)
	Tree grower- wine grower (seasonal workers only)
	Industrial breeders (pork, rabbits, poultry)
MECHANICS, METAL WORKS AND VARIOUS INDUSTRIES	
	Mechanical construction and metal working
	Boiler maker – sheet metal worker
	Machine tool operator-adjuster
	Industrial pipe fitter (cutting and fitting)
	Mechanic adjuster
	Sheet moulder
	Mechanical construction and metalwork inspector and tester
	Other
	Automatic machine operator in electrical manufacturing

	Industrial maintenance technician
	Metalworking machine operator
	Electrical and electronic production supervisor
	Mechanical construction project drafter
	Mechanical construction and metalwork manufacturing technician
	Mechanical construction and metalwork quality technician
	Lift (and other mechanical systems) installer and maintenance agent
PROCESS INDUSTRIES	
	Chemical and energy production industries installation manager
	Agri-food industries installation manager
	Agri-food industry manufacturing tool and machine operator
	First transformation metalworking machine operator
	Glass production installation manager
	Glass transformation operator
	Cement production installation manager
	Ceramics and construction materials production operator
	Wood-based panel production operator
	Paper pulp and cardboard production operator
	Stiff paper production
	Converting operator
	Meat transformation operator (slaughter, preparation, packaging)
	Craft fermentation operator (wine, cider, beer, cheese production)
TRADE AND SALES	
	Professional equipment sales attaché
	Raw materials and intermediate goods sales attaché
	Business services sales attaché
	Distance-sales technician
	Door to door salesperson
	Merchandiser (development of sales points and departments)
HYGIENE	
	Specialized window washer
	Urban cleaning and maintenance agent
	Urban maintenance and drainage agent
	A precise definition of these professions can be found on the ANPE employment agency web sit (www.anpe.fr)