

Permanent Residence, Occupation Permits etc.

Conditions for acquiring permanent residence are described in the Business Facilitation Act Regulations due out End Jan 2009.

Persons eligible for residence status:

Permanent Residence can be granted for a period of ten years (it is unclear what happens after this time) if a non citizen has been in possession of an Occupation Permit for three years. **Permanent Residence Regulations are to be in force by end January 2009**.

Occupation Permits (this is a combination Residence and Work Permit) are issued within a short period of time - see guidelines below - to the following applicants who have registered with the Board of Investment.

IRS residents now qualify for Occupation Permits (June 2007). It is unstated whether and how this permit can acquire Permanent Residence Status and allow the holder to purchase immovable property outside of the IRS.

Conflicting messages have been given as to whether IRS residence is really Permanent Residence, or simply residence for as long as the property is held, and whether further property acquisition rights are attached. Our current view, based on enquiries made to the Board of Investment, is that IRS ownership does NOT confer additional non IRS property acquisition rights on the holder.

All will hopefully be revealed when the Permanent Residence regulations are published before end January 2009.

The procedure is as follows:

- Register with the Board of Investment
- Submit medical results and documents
- Apply for Occupation Permit

The published guidelines do not cover all the requirements. Contact Frontfin before you visit Mauritius and we will plan and coordinate everything for you, making sure you bring the right documents with you, scheduling your medical, and liaising with the necessary government departments including the BOI. This will save you a lot of time and frustration. You should be in Mauritius for a week to get this all done.

The table below sets minimum qualification levels for Occupational Permits and Permanent Residence. The Retiree gets a residence permit rather than an occupation permit. Conversion to Permanent Resident requires performance for three years at this minimum level before being granted.

Category	Occupation Permit	Permanent Residency Maintained for 3 Years
Investor	Turnover Rs3m p.a.	Turnover Rs15m p.a.
Self Employed	Income Rs600 000 p.a.	Income Rs3m p.a.
Professional	Salary Rs30 000 p.m.	Salary exceeding Rs150 000 pm (\$5 000)
Retiree	\$40 000 per annum	\$40 000 per annum

[Guidelines for obtaining an Occupation Permit \(PDF\)](#)

[Application form for an Occupation Permit \(PDF\)](#)

- **Professionals** (employees) - salary must exceed Rs30 000.

[Registration Form for Professionals \(PDF\)](#)

- **Investors** (owners) - turnover must exceed Rs3 million.

[Registration Form for Investors \(PDF\)](#)

- **Self Employed** (owner who is employee)- Income must exceed Rs600 000.

[Registration form for Self Employed applicants \(PDF\)](#)

Residence Permits are issued to:

- Retired Non Citizens - Must bring \$40 000 in each year.

[Guidelines for applying for a Residence Permit](#)

[Registration with Board of Investment as Retiree. PDF](#)

[Application form for Residence Permit \(Word\)](#)

Permanent Residence Permits are issued after three years to

- Investors - with a turnover of Rs15 million per annum for the past three years
- Self Employed - with an income over Rs3 million per annum
- Professionals - with a salary exceeding Rs150 000 per month (approx \$5000).
- Retired Non - Citizens - who must have brought in \$40 000 for the past three years.
- Please note that this permanent residence is only available for ten years. It is unclear what happens thereafter, but assuming that the permanent residency lapses, so does the right to own property. In terms of current legislation it would be possible at this stage to start all over again with a three year residence permit or occupational permit followed by a reapplication of permanent residency for another ten years.

Spouses and dependents of Permanent Residence Permit holders may also live, work and invest in property in Mauritius.