

# PERMITS TO STAY FOR SEASONAL WORK

Entry into Italy for seasonal work is only stipulated for some sectors: agriculture and tourism-hospitality (hotels, restaurants, bars, etc.).



The seasonal work permit may have a maximum validity of 9 months, it can, thus, be issued or extended only up to this maximum period.

The permit, the authorisation necessary for entering Italy for work, is required by your future employer and is issued based on the entry quotas defined by the Flow Decree.

## DECRETO FLUSSI

Every year, the Italian government can establish the maximum number ("entry quotas") for non-EU foreign citizens who can enter Italy for employment, self-employment, and seasonal work, through the Decreto Flussi.

In general, they establish the date and time from when it is possible to send applications, which are evaluated according to their order of arrival.

### WITH THE PERMIT TO STAY FOR SEASONAL WORK, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- insurance against work injuries and occupational illnesses;
- insurance against sickness;
- maternity insurance;
- mandatory insurance in case of disability, old age, or, in the case of death, to benefit your dependent family members (surviving family).

**You DO NOT have the right to the unemployment benefit**

## TO KNOW

- It is possible to enter Italy even with a part-time contract (at least 20 hours per week on average).
- The following year, you will have a preferential right to re-enter Italy with a new contract.
- If you have obtained the seasonal work permit, at least once in the five previous years, you may request the multi-year seasonal work permit that is valid for up to three years.
- With a multi-year permit for seasonal workers:
  - the following year, you will be able to enter Italy even if the Flow Decree has not been published.
  - the following year, the hiring request may also be made by a different employer
  - in each case, your entry visa will always be required

After at least three months' seasonal work, if you have a fixed-term or permanent offer for work as an employee, you may ask for the permit to be converted in order to work as an employee.

### THE APPLICATION MUST:

- fit within the dedicated conversion quotas annually set by the Flow Decree
- be submitted online at the Unified Immigration Desk (Sportello unico per l'immigrazione - SUI) before the expiry date indicated by the Decree.
- be submitted before the expiry of the seasonal permit to stay.

Once in Italy, within 48 hours, you must go to the police station to communicate your presence and where you are being hosted and, within 8 days, you must sign the Contract to Stay with your employer at the Unified Immigration Desk.

Your employer must pay the relevant contributions to the Italian social security institute (INPS). If your country of origin has signed an agreement with Italy, the contributions that you have paid in Italy may also be valid in your country of origin.

## PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING THE SEASONAL WORK PERMIT

1. Your future employer, whether Italian or a foreigner legally resident in Italy, sends the request for authorisation to hire you online. The Flow Decrees generally establish a date and a time from when the applications may be sent.
2. If the application fits within the quotas, the employer is summoned to the Unified Immigration Desk (SUI) to submit the documents. If the application is accepted, the entry authorisation (permit) will be delivered.
3. The employer sends you the permit with which, together with your passport, you can request the visa to enter Italy.
4. Once you are in Italy, you must communicate where you are housed (hospitality communication) within 48 hours to the police station and you must contact the SUI at the prefecture within 8 days to sign the Contract to Stay with your employer and to send the permit to stay for seasonal work application.

### CONTRATTO DI SOGGIORNO

This is a contract between an employer and a foreign worker with which your employer guarantees that you will have suitable housing available and that, if you are deported, they will undertake to pay your travel expenses.

The contract to stay does not replace the employment contract, but is necessary to obtain the permit to stay for work under an employment contract.

**Remember:** always keep your Italian work documents (contract to stay, employment contract, pay slips, etc.).



## WHO TO CONTACT



### TO OBTAIN THE PERMIT:

your employer must complete the online procedure with their SPID (Public Digital Identity number) by themselves or ask for assistance from Patronage or their industry association.

### IF YOU HAVE OBTAINED THE PERMIT AND YOU ARE IN IT-ALY,

but your employers are no longer willing to hire you, you may contact the **trade union**.

Depending on the case, you may obtain an "awaiting employment" permit to stay.

## PATRONAGE

**Patronage** offers assistance and protection to workers, retirees, and, in general, to all citizens within Italy, including foreigners, in managing bureaucracy and in knowing and exercising their rights.

### PATRONAGE PROVIDES INFORMATION, ASSISTANCE, AND CONSULTANCY ON:

- Pensions;
- Work injuries and occupational illnesses;
- Disabilities;
- Income support: family allowances, unemployment, and maternity;
- Immigration: requests for and renewal of permits to stay.

**The majority of services offered by Patronage is free.**

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Contents developed within the project  
"Engaging Pakistani Diaspora in Italy for  
promoting Decent Work in Pakistan"



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