■ English

What types of training programs are provided to foreign nationals who are working, or intend to work, under the Specified Skilled Worker status of residence?	Accepting organizations are required to prepare an appropriate support plan when hosting foreign workers with Specified Skilld Worker system. The support plan shall include explaining immigration procedures to the foreign worker through face-to-face meetings or video calls, and providing orientation on daily life to ensure that the foreign worker can live smoothly in Japan.
Is it not possible to work under the Specified Skilled Worker status unless the employing company is a member of the Specified Skilled Worker Council for the relevant industry?	Accepting organizations are required to be members of the council corresponding to their relevant industry sector. Therefore, companies that are not members of the council cannot host foreign workers under the Specified Skills Worker system. In the case of the industrial manufacturing and construction fields, membership in an organization registered with the competent minister is required instead of council membership.
Please explain the process by which a foreign national comes to Japan under the Specified Skilled Worker status. Additionally, is it possible for individuals already residing in Japan to change their status of residence to Specified Skilled Worker?	To be eligible to work under the Specified Skilled Worker status, in principle you must pass both the skills proficiency test in the field you intend to work in and a Japanese language proficiency test. For foreign nationals who are planning to come to Japan under the Specified Skilled Worker system, as well as those already residing in Japan under a different status of residence, the procedures and process for obtaining permission to work under the Specified Skilled Worker status are described on the following page for reference: https://www.ssw.go.jp/about/howtowork/
Will the Specified Skilled Worker program continue in the future?	As of February 2026, there are no plans to terminate the Specified Skilled Worker system. However, since the number of foreign workers that can be accepted is set for each sector, the acceptance of Specified Skilled Workers in a particular field may be suspended once the maximum number is reached.
How frequently must the period of stay under the Specified Skilled Worker status be renewed?	The period of stay for Specified Skilled Worker (i) is determined individually by the Minister of Justice (within a range not exceeding three years), whereas for Specified Skilled Worker (ii), it is set at three years, two years, one year, or six months. Applications for the extension of the period of stay must be submitted to the Regional Immigration Bureau before the expiration of the current period of stay (in principle, for those with a period of stay of six months or longer, approximately three months prior to the expiration, unless there are special circumstances). While the total period of stay under Specified Skilled Worker (i) is, in principle, limited to five years, there is no restriction on the total period of stay under Specified Skilled Worker (ii).
Can a foreign national of a country that has not concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with Japan still qualify as a Specified Skilled Worker?	Under the Specified Skilled Worker system, a bilateral Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) is not a mandatory requirement. Even foreign nationals from countries that have not concluded an MOC with Japan may qualify for the Specified Skilled Worker status. Immigration Services Agency Website: “Country-specific Information on Specified Skilled Workers” （https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/ssw/nyuukokukanri06_00073.html）
In order to work in the automobile transportation industry under the Specified Skilled Worker status, is it sufficient to convert a driver’s license obtained overseas into a Japanese driver’s license?	Foreign nationals who possess only an international driving permit cannot engage in driving duties as Specified Skilled Workers. For foreign nationals residing overseas, after passing the Specified Skilled Worker evaluation test and the Japanese language test and entering Japan, they must obtain a Japanese driving license through the conversion of a foreign license or other procedures during the period of stay under “Designated Activities※” (up to six months for truck drivers, up to one year for bus or taxi drivers). To be eligible for foreign license conversion, the individual must have previously obtained a driving license overseas and have resided in the issuing country for at least three months. ※“Designated Activities” refers to the residence status granted for preparatory activities to become a Specified Skilled Worker (i) in the automobile transportation field (such as obtaining a Japanese driving license or completing training for new drivers). For more information regarding the automobile transportation field, please refer to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism website: （https://www.mlit.go.jp/jidosha/jidosha_tk1_000038.html）