Extend Your Sole Representative

Visa: A Comprehensive Guide

If you are currently in the UK on a Sole Representative Visa and wish to continue your business operations, you may need to extend your visa before it expires. Extending your Sole Representative Visa allows you to maintain your legal status and continue representing your overseas company in the UK. This guide outlines the eligibility criteria, required documents, and application process to successfully extend your visa.

Eligibility Criteria for Extending Your Sole Representative Visa

To qualify for an extension, you must meet the following conditions:

- 1. **Continued Employment** You must still be employed by the same overseas business that sponsored your initial visa.
- 2. **Business Operations** The parent company must remain active and headquartered outside the UK.
- 3. **Registered UK Branch or Subsidiary** You must have established and be managing a UK-registered branch or subsidiary.
- 4. **Financial Stability** The overseas company must demonstrate sufficient funds to support your stay and business activities.
- 5. **No Public Funds** You must not have accessed UK public funds during your stay.

If your circumstances have changed (e.g., the parent company has relocated to the UK), you may not be eligible for an extension.

Required Documents for Extension

When applying to extend your Sole Representative Visa, you must provide:

- A valid passport and BRP (Biometric Residence Permit).
- Proof of continued employment with the overseas company (e.g., a letter from your employer).
- Evidence of the parent company's ongoing operations outside the UK (e.g., financial statements, tax records).

- Documentation of the UK branch/subsidiary's activities (e.g., Companies House registration, business accounts).
- Proof of salary payments and financial maintenance (e.g., bank statements, payslips).
- A detailed business activity report outlining your role and contributions.

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Ensure all documents are up-to-date and translated into English if necessary.



Application Process to Extend Your Sole Representative Visa

Step 1: Prepare Your Documents

Gather all required paperwork and ensure they meet UKVI (UK Visas and Immigration) standards.

Step 2: Complete the Online Application

Submit your application via the UK government's official visa extension portal (Form FLR IR).

Step 3: Pay the Fees

The current fee for extending a Sole Representative Visa is £1,048 (as of 2024). You may also need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS).

Step 4: Book a Biometrics Appointment

Visit a UKVCAS (UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services) center to provide biometric information.

Step 5: Await a Decision

Processing times typically take up to 8 weeks. You may request priority processing for an additional fee.



What Happens After Approval?

If approved, your visa will be extended for another **2 years**, after which you may apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) if eligible.

Common Reasons for Refusal

- Insufficient proof of business activity.
- The parent company has moved its headquarters to the UK.
- Failure to meet financial requirements.
- Incomplete or incorrect documentation.

To avoid refusal, ensure all criteria are met and seek legal advice if needed.

Conclusion

Extend your Sole Representative Visa is essential to continue legally operating your business in the UK. By meeting eligibility requirements, submitting the correct documents, and following the application process carefully, you can secure an extension and work toward long-term settlement in the UK.



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