

Guide to the Program for Temporary Guatemalan Farm Workers in Chiapas

in Mexico

The governments of Mexico and Guatemala have an agreement that provides temporary work visas for some Guatemalans to work on farms in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. Guatemalans who have these temporary work visas have the same labor rights that Mexican workers have.

As a Guatemalan, what do I need in order to work on a farm in the state of Chiapas, Mexico?

You need to have a job and obtain an Immigration Document for Temporary Farm Visitors (FMVA).

What is the FMVA?

The FMVA is an immigration document that authorizes Guatemalan farm workers to temporarily work in the state of Chiapas, Mexico.



Where can I work?

Workers holding an FMVA are permitted to work temporarily at livestock ranches, and on sugar cane, coffee and banana plantations in Chiapas.

Who can get an FMVA?

Any Guatemalan man or woman over the age of 14.



Where do I apply for an FMVA?

You can apply for an FMVA at the local offices of the National Immigration Institute (Instituto Nacional de Migración, INM) on the Mexico-Guatemalan border in Chiapas.

What do I need to get an FMVA?

You must ask for and complete the FMVA immigration form and present the following documents:

- an official identification with a photograph;
- two passport-size photographs.



How do I complete the FMVA immigration form?

You have to complete the form in block capitals letters and write:

- your full name;
- your address;
- the name of your employer and that of the ranch or ejido where you will work.

Do I have to pay for the FMVA?

No. The FMVA is absolutely free.

How long can I stay in Mexico if I have an FMVA?

If you have an FMVA, you can stay in Mexico for up to one year (365 days).

Can I leave Mexico during this time?

Yes. You can enter and leave Mexico at any time as long as your FMVA is valid.

Can I travel in Mexico with the FMVA?

No. This document authorizes you to travel only in the state of Chiapas.

Can I change my job whenever I want to?

No. Workers with an FMVA are authorized to work only for the employer at the ranch or ejido stated on the original form. You must obtain permission to change your job from the immigration authorities at the office where you originally received your FMVA.

What happens if I have an on-the-job accident?

In Mexico, farm workers are entitled to Social Security (medical insurance). If you have an on-the-job accident, you should go to the nearest Social Security clinic.



For more information, see the [Guide to On-the-Job Injuries in Mexico](#).

What happens if my employer fires me unfairly?

If you have problems at work, you should go to the Public Labor Defender's Office (PROFEDET) and/or the Conciliation and Arbitration Board (JCA) and file a claim or complaint.

For more information, see [Guide to Resolving Labor Disputes in Mexico](#).

What is the minimum wage I should earn?

In Mexico, your employer must pay you at least the minimum wage. Minimum wages are established according to the type of work and area of the country where you are employed. To find out how much the minimum wage is in your area, contact the labor department nearest you (see the table below).

What happens if I lose my FMVA?

You have to get a document from the Attorney General's Office, and then go to the nearest National Immigration Institute (Instituto Nacional de Migración, INM) office to show that you entered the country with an FMVA. The INM will give you a replacement or a permit to leave Mexico.

What do I do when my FMVA expires?

After a year (365 days), each worker wishing to remain must renew his or her FMVA at the local office where he or she received it.

For more information, see [Guide to Minimum Employment Standards, Pay Deductions and Severance Pay for Unjustified Firing in Mexico](#).

Addresses of Regional Offices of the National Immigration Institute (INM)

Chiapas

Calle Vialidad No. 435, Frac. Las Vegas.
C.P. 30798, Tapachula, Chiapas.
Tel: (962) 625-0466, 626-9102 and 625-0559
Fax: (962) 625-0466

Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas

1ª Calle Oriente Nte. No. 323, C.P. 29000
Tel. and fax: (961) 611-4242

San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas

Calle Diagonal Centenario No. 28
Barrio de San Ramón, C.P. 29240
Tel: (967) 678-0292 and 678-6594
Fax: (967) 678-9564

Cd. Cuauhtémoc, Chiapas

Puente Internacional, Inter-American Highway

Palenque, Chiapas

Fco. Javier Mina No. 1, Col. Centro
Tel. and fax: (934) 345-0795

Cd. Talismán, Chiapas

Puente Internacional, Frontera Talismán,
Chiapas

Cd. Hidalgo, Chiapas

Puente Internacional, C.P. 30840
Tel: (969) 698-0174
Fax: (969) 698-0075

Comitán, Chiapas

Entronque Tzimol
Tel. and fax: (963) 632-2200

Federal Public Labor Defender's Office (PROFEDET)

Av. Norte and 1a. Oriente, Palacio Federal
Nuevo, 2o. Piso, Col. Centro, C.P. 29000,
Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas
Tel: (961) 613-8854, 612-6720 and 612-1836
ext. 200, 201 and 320 (fax)
Toll free: 01-800-717-2942

Federal Conciliation and Arbitration Board (JCA)

Special Board No. 49, Av. Norte y 1a. Oriente,
2o. Piso, Palacio Federal, Col. Centro,
C.P. 29000, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas
Tel: (961) 612-6720

Local Conciliation and Arbitration Boards (JCA)

Calle Central No. 106 y 2 Sur, esq. Edificio
Castor, Piso 2, Col. Centro, C.P. 29000, Tuxtla
Gutiérrez, Chiapas
Tel: (961) 612-0734 and 613-3536

Av. Primera Sur, Prolongación S/N, Frac.
Las Palmas, C.P. 30790, Tapachula, Chiapas
Tel.: (962) 625-2359

General Office for Crime Prevention and Community Services of the Attorney General's Office of the Republic (Dirección General de Prevención del Delito y Servicios a la Comunidad de la Procuraduría General de la República)
Tel: (55) 5346-2400 in Mexico City, and toll free 01-800-002-5200 outside the capital

State General Attorney's Offices (Procuraduría General de Justicia de los Estados)
Look up the number in the local telephone directory where you are located.

IMSS: Look for the telephone number in your local telephone directory.

State Employment Service (Servicio Estatal de Empleo)
3a. Poniente Sur No. 170, Tapachula, Chiapas
Tels.: (962) 623-3518, 623-3571 and 623-3624,
ext. 15



Commission for Labor Cooperation