

UK immigration law

Sole representative of an overseas company

This category is designed to attract overseas businesses who wish to establish a UK office / branch / subsidiary in the UK for their overseas parent company by sending to this country a senior employee of their company.

The company must have no branch, subsidiary or other representative in the UK. If the company has a legal entity in the UK but this does not employ staff or transact business then it can send a sole representative to the UK under these rules.

No minimum investment is required under this category.

General requirements

As a sole representative coming over to the UK, you must produce documentary evidence to show that:

- You are directly employed by the parent company and not acting as an agent marketing the company's goods;
- You have been employed by the parent company for some time and hold a senior post;
- You are a senior employee of the parent company with full authority to take operational decisions on behalf of the overseas company without reference to the parent company;
- You were recruited to the company outside the United Kingdom and intend to work full time as a representative of that company in this country;
- You are not a majority shareholder in the parent/overseas company;
- You do not intend to carry out any other work whilst in the United Kingdom;
- You can maintain yourself and any dependants without recourse to public funds; and
- You hold a valid UK entry clearance for entering the UK in this capacity.

Duration of a sole representative visa

Sole representative visas are granted for a period of 3 years initially. Before the expiry of this period, you may apply for an extension of a further 2 years, provided that you continue to meet the requirements of the rules.

Settlement in the UK

If you have completed a total of 5 years under this category you will be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain (permanent residence) in the UK.

British nationality

You will be able apply for British nationality 12 months from the time you were granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK provided you meet the additional criteria for naturalisation in the UK as a British citizen.

Disclaimer

The information provided on this page is designed to provide general guidance. Nothing in this page constitutes legal advice.

For detailed advice please contact Laya by telephone on 020 7105 6178 or 020 7357 9494 or e-mail: Laya Falsafi lf@lzwlaw.co.uk