

# International Engineering Alliance

## Policy for Undertaking Work in Countries of Risk

### 1. Background

From time to time applications to join the Accords or Mobility Agreements are received from countries which are undergoing internal conflict or other situations which may be perceived as making them unduly risky to visit. A country that is already a member may become risky to visit during its period of membership for example due to natural disasters or other such circumstances. As all of the accords and agreements may require a visit by a team or individuals to observe, mentor or review the relevant practices such situations therefore give rise to problems of individual and team safety during such a visit.

The perception of risk may vary from individual to individual and from organisation to organisation. Citizens coming from one country may be at quite different risk from those of another. Due account should be taken of advice provided by the host jurisdiction, national advisory bodies such as Ministries of Foreign Affairs, insurance companies and similar organisations. These organisations may have differing views on the risks of visiting other countries.

It is clear that such applicants or member organisations cannot necessarily expect individuals or teams to visit under such circumstances.

The composition of review teams in terms of the jurisdictions which supply these members are often set some years in advance in order to balance the workload between member organisations but this may require adjustment to take account of the changed security circumstances.

### 2. Definitions

‘Host country/jurisdiction’ means the country/jurisdiction being visited.

‘Supply jurisdiction’ means the jurisdiction supplying the visitor or team member.

### 3. Principles

The responsibility for making the decision on whether or not to undertake a visit rests initially with the supply jurisdiction but should ultimately rest with those most affected ie the visitors themselves, but clearly advice must be provided by both the host and supply jurisdictions in order for them to reach a reasonable decision.

If a visit should take place then the host country has a responsibility to use its best endeavours to ensure the safety of the visitors. The visitors should behave reasonably and give due weight to the instructions of the host country with respect to their personal safety.

### 4. Policies

4.1 The initial decision on whether or not to supply visitors or review team members rests with the supply jurisdiction.

4.2 The final decision on whether or not to visit host countries or specific locales within the host country rests with the individuals concerned and any team member is at liberty to refuse to undertake such visit if, in their opinion, it poses an unacceptable risk to personal safety.

- 4.3 In making such decisions advice will be sought by supply jurisdictions from recognised national agencies in their jurisdiction as well as from the host country, insurance companies and other sources. If national agencies advise against visits to the host country this shall be sufficient justification for the visit by their members to not take place.
- 4.4 Supply jurisdictions will also take advice regarding insurance cover. Inability to obtain cover on reasonable terms shall be sufficient justification for a visit by their member not to take place.
- 4.5 The host country must use every endeavour to ensure the safety of those visiting it on IEA business.
- 4.6 Cancellation of a scheduled visit may take place at any time but the cancellation should take place as early as possible to avoid incurring unnecessary costs. In the event of a visit being cancelled at any time after the appointment of a visitor/team by the secretariat or truncated during the in-country visit the host jurisdiction will still be liable for all visitor costs incurred.
- 4.7 Host countries should minimise their financial risk if possible by taking out insurance against visit cancellation
- 4.8 In the event of visits being unable to take place as required by the accords or agreements, then the application for observation, mentoring or review will be considered to be in abeyance until such time as the situation improves and visits can take place. In the case of a review of a member jurisdiction the existing status of the member shall remain until the next general meeting after a review has taken place. In the case of a new applicant the application will be deemed to be in abeyance.
- 4.9 The IEA does not accept any responsibility for the safety of any person on IEA business. This must rest with the individual, their own jurisdiction and the host country.

## 5. Procedures

The procedures for setting up the visits generally require the secretariat to call for nominations from the nominated supply countries following which the executive committee of the accord/agreement selects the team and the team leader. The communication after that is generally direct between the host jurisdiction and the team.

The procedures for selecting teams/visitors to countries which might be perceived as dangerous are modified as follows

1. On receipt of an application for observation, mentoring or review the secretariat shall advise the relevant executive committee who, in conjunction with the secretariat, will consider whether the host country could be considered dangerous.
2. If the host country is deemed unduly risky the secretariat and the executive committee will advise the nominated supply jurisdictions and invite them to submit appropriate visitor nominations in accordance with the agreements and with due consideration of risk amelioration in their selection of nominees. It is particularly important that the supply jurisdictions provide a full complement of possible candidates to allow the formation of an appropriate team with reserve team members available.

3. If any nominated jurisdiction declines to or cannot provide nominations on grounds of undue risk the secretariat will advise the host country and the executive committee and secretariat will consider whether there are other appropriate potential supply jurisdictions and if so invite them to provide nominations.
4. In the event those secondary supply jurisdictions decline to provide nominations on grounds of undue risk the visit shall be deemed to be in abeyance.
5. In the case of new applicants the secretariat and executive committee shall, where necessary, give due consideration to risk amelioration in the selection of supply jurisdictions.
6. In the event that a team member decides after appointment that they cannot visit it is the responsibility of the supply jurisdiction to provide a suitable replacement.
7. If at any time after appointment the review team or a team member perceives an increase in risk to such an extent that the postponement or cancellation of the visit should be considered this may only be initiated after discussion with the host country, the supply jurisdictions and the executive committee who must give proper consideration to the trigger event and the reasonable consequences.
8. In the event of a monitoring visit being cancelled or postponed the executive committee shall consider whether part or all of the review could properly be conducted by other means such as video or telephone conference etc.

## **6. Expectations**

Countries which may be considered unduly risky must not expect visits as of right and must take this into account in their application for observation, mentoring or review and in the scheduling of visits.