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Summary of Mexican Visa Classifications

	FM-3		Permanent Resident Status
<i>Purpose</i>	Business or Technical Visit to Mexico from a U.S. employer; may also be eligible for this visa classification under <i>NAFTA</i>	Residence and employment in Mexico (usually for an expatriate assignment or professional employment in Mexico and paid by the Mexican entity), or sponsorship by a family member	To live and work in Mexico indefinitely and must first obtain an FM-2 visa
<i>Location of Primary Residence</i>	United States, or otherwise outside of Mexico	Mexico; must not be outside of Mexico for more than 18 months within 60 months if applying for Permanent Resident status in the future	Mexico – must not remain outside Mexico for 3 consecutive years or 5 years accumulated within a 10 year period
<i>Validity</i>	Issued in 1 year increments and can be renewed for a total of four years	Issued in 1 year increments and can be renewed indefinitely; after 4-½ years FM-2 is eligible to apply for Permanent Resident status in Mexico	Indefinitely -- provided notification of change of address is provided to the Mexican government
<i>Where to Apply</i>	Mexican Consulate	In Mexico	In Mexico