

Manufacture and supply of goods to the UK

Can a visitor install, dismantle and repair equipment in the UK?

- Yes. An employee of a foreign manufacturer may install, dismantle, repair, service or advise on equipment, computer software or hardware, where such a manufacturer has a contract of purchase or supply or lease with a UK company or organisation.

Does the visitor installing, dismantling and repairing equipment in the UK have to be an employee of the manufacturer?

- Employees of the manufacturer may do this activity in the UK as a visitor. Where more than one company was involved in the manufacture of something then employees from all the companies involved may do this activity.

Can a subcontractor install, dismantle and repair equipment in the UK?

- An employee of a sub-contractor resident in the UK may do this activity, but an employee based outside the UK may not do this as a visitor.
- The visitor rules only allow service provision by non-residents by exception. Manufacturers often have the specific expertise about their products which is why this exception exists.
- It may be that another part of the immigration system may be more appropriate, further details on the whole system are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration>

What is allowed within the same corporate group?

- The Visitor rules allow an employee of a company based outside the UK to work with UK employees of the same corporate group.
- They may advise, consult, trouble-shoot, provide training and share skills and knowledge on a specific internal project. They must not carry out work directly with clients.
- Internal auditors can also carry out regulatory or financial audits at a UK branch of the same group of companies as the visitor's employer overseas.

One company manufactures the equipment and a separate company within the same corporate group services the equipment can they do this as a visitor?

- A foreign manufacturer with a contract of supply with a UK based company may send their employees to the UK to install, dismantle, service, repair or advise on equipment. If the employees are from another company within the

same corporate group, this will be considered on a case-by-case basis based on the individual facts.

An overseas company supplies equipment to a UK based company within the same corporate group. Can employees of the overseas company service the equipment as a visitor?

- No, servicing, installing and maintaining within a corporate group is not allowed as a visitor. Employees may use the Intra company transfer route to base an employee within the UK.