

## **Retiree Corner:**

### **Ration Cards for Retirees and Survivors**

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Retirees receive a ration card based on their status. For both SOFA status and non-SOFA status retirees, the ration card is issued based on the expiration date in the Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS). The DBIDS eligibility is based on the expiration date of their permanent visa or two years, whichever is less.

A non-SOFA retiree with either a Tourist (C-3) or transit visa receives a temporary ration card for 30 days, and that may be renewed twice (a total of 90 days) before the retiree must depart Korea and re-enter to get a new temporary ration card. The retiree receives the Commissary dollar purchase limit based on the size of the family.

Widows who are not Korean citizens receive a ration card based on the DBIDS expiration date and that is based on their visa expiration date. Widows who are Korean citizens generally will receive a ration card for the maximum of two years.

It's important for retirees to understand that when the sponsor dies, the surviving spouse is eligible only for the Commissary purchase dollar limit for one person. Family size is not considered when authorizing a ration card for survivors.

Finally, keep in mind that exceeding the dollar limit for Commissary purchases is only one way to lose privileges and possibly be denied installation access. Purchasing excess quantities beyond personal need in either the Commissary or Exchange is another. It's easy to keep track of your purchases at <https://pimsk.korea.army.mil/>.