

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2023



Portugal

Expired Portuguese permits and visas automatically extended until 31 December 2023

Executive summary

The Portuguese government recently extended the validity of permits and visas that expired on or after 27 February 2020 until 31 December 2023, with limited exceptions. Further, holders of driver's licenses and disability parking permits issued in the UK can now use these documents in Portugal until 31 December 2023.

Background

In March 2020, the Portuguese authorities approved Decree-Law 10-A/2020, which extended the validity of all Portuguese permits and visas (e.g., residence permits) that expired "on or after 13 March 2020 or in the 15 days immediately prior to that date" (i.e., 27 February 2020) until 30 October 2020. A second extension was granted until 31 March 2021, with subsequent extensions until 31 December 2022. The extensions aimed to assist individuals who were facing delays with renewing their immigration documents following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restructuring of the Immigration and Border Services (SEF).

Extension of permits and visas

On 30 December 2022, the Portuguese authorities approved Decree-Law 90/2022, which further extended the validity of these expired permits and visas until 31 December 2023. The recent extension does not apply to individuals who arrived from Ukraine and hold Temporary Protection Status in Portugal. In addition, while expired visas and permits will continue to be recognized in Portugal, holders may face challenges when

traveling to other jurisdictions on the basis of their Portuguese immigration documents.

UK driver's licenses

Individuals who hold disability parking permits or driver's licenses issued in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland may continue to use these documents in Portugal until 31 December 2023. In general, Portuguese residents who seek to use their UK licenses in Portugal must register their license with the Portuguese Institute for Mobility and Transport within 60 days of obtaining a Portuguese residence permit or exchange their UK license for a Portuguese one.

Impact on employers

Individuals who hold expired permits or visas can now continue to work and reside in Portugal until the new deadline and apply to renew their documents to avoid immigration compliance challenges. Employers are expected to benefit from the recent policy decisions, which reduce the administrative requirements relating to UK driver's licenses.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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