

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2023



Costa Rica

Costa Rica introduces new digital DIMEX Cards for foreign residents

Executive summary

Effective 2 January 2023, the Costa Rican immigration authorities (i.e., the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners or DGME) began issuing Immigration Identification Documents for Foreigners (“DIMEX”) digitally as part of their efforts to modernize and digitize immigration services in the country. Previously, the DIMEX was issued as a physical card.

Background

The DIMEX was originally introduced in 2008 as a personal identification document for foreign individuals residing lawfully in Costa Rica. It contains a unique identification number as well as limited personal information relating to the DIMEX holder (e.g., photograph, nationality, signature).

Key Developments

Effective 2 January 2023, the Costa Rican immigration authorities initiated a two-year transition period during which the DIMEX will be issued both digitally and as a physical card. The digital DIMEX contains a QR code that can be scanned by Costa Rican authorities to confirm DIMEX holders’ identity and lawful immigration status in the country.

The requirements for obtaining a digital DIMEX are the same as those for obtaining or renewing a physical DIMEX. To obtain a digital DIMEX, applicants must present the following:

- ▶ A valid passport that is in good condition

- ▶ The resolution document confirming the DGME’s approval of the applicant’s immigration category (i.e., stay visa, temporary residence or permanent residence)
- ▶ Proof that they are enrolled in Costa Rica’s social security system
- ▶ Proof that they have deposited approximately \$125 in the DGME’s account with the Bank of Costa Rica (BCR)

Impact on employers

The move to digitize the DIMEX is designed to promote security and reduce instances of fraud relating to immigration applications filed in Costa Rica. Additional efforts to modernize immigration services in Costa Rica are expected in the future and could benefit employers and foreign employees by streamlining immigration application processes.

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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