

Mobility: Immigration alert

February 2023



Spain

Large Business Unit to soon accept only digital signatures for work and residence permit applications

Executive summary

Spanish companies that submit (initial) work and residence permit applications to the Large Business Unit (LBU) on behalf of their employees will soon be required to provide digital signatures only. Currently, both physical and digital signatures are accepted.

Background

The LBU processes different types of work and residence permit applications submitted by companies that sponsor individuals to work in Spain. Applications must be submitted online, and the legal representative of the sponsoring company may sign the application physically (by providing a “wet signature”) or digitally (by obtaining a “digital certificate”).

Key developments

Once the new change goes into effect, sponsoring companies will be required to obtain a [digital certificate](#) from the Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre ([FNMT-RCM](#)) and use it to sign work and residence permit applications on behalf of their employees. Alternatively, companies may authorize a third party to electronically sign the application on their behalf by registering a power of attorney with the Electronic Register of Powers of Attorney ([REA](#)).

Until the new requirement goes into effect, sponsoring companies may continue to sign applications physically or digitally. Further

details are expected in the future, including when the new change will be implemented.

Impact on employers

Companies may obtain a digital certificate from the FNMT-RCM or register a power of attorney with the REA prior to the new change going into effect to ensure they meet the revised requirements. The new change may streamline the work and residence permit application process by eliminating the wet signature requirement.

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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