

Mobility: Immigration alert

April 2023



Malaysia

Instant approval of expatriate projection applications submitted by employers

Executive summary

Effective 1 April 2023, Malaysian employers that submit projection applications to the Expatriate Services Division (ESD) will receive instant approvals.

Background

Employers in Malaysia that seek to sponsor foreign nationals to obtain Employment Passes (EPs) or Professional Visit Passes (PVPs) are required to submit projection applications to the ESD annually. In successful cases, the ESD issues an annual projection to employers, which sets the upper limit for the number of foreign nationals they may hire.

Key developments

Effective 1 April 2023, companies that submit projection applications to the ESD will receive approvals instantly, provided they submit justifications for their projections and other relevant information (e.g., total number of local staff and foreign employees). Employers that submitted projection applications prior to 1 April 2023 but were awaiting a decision as of that date can submit a new application.

Previously, projection applications were subject to stricter scrutiny, and employers were required to await the ESD's approval before they could hire foreign nationals, which could take at least 10 working days.

Impact on employers

The new change is expected to benefit employers by reducing the time required to sponsor foreign nationals for EPs and PVPs. Employers may ensure that their company information on the ESD portal is regularly updated to mitigate potential delays or complications relating to their sponsorship of EPs and PVPs.

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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ey.com

Christopher Lim

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +603-7495-8378
Email: christopher.lim@my.ey.com

Cynthia Wong

Associate Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +603-7495-8129
Email: cynthia.wong@my.ey.com

Eunice Look

Director - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +603-7495-8225
Email: eunice.look@my.ey.com