

Mobility: Immigration alert

May 2023



Sweden

Sweden to implement a new work permit processing system by end of 2023

Executive summary

On 12 May 2023, Swedish Minister of Migration Maria Malmer Stenergard and Migration Agency Director-General Mikael Ribbenvik announced plans to implement a new system for processing work permit applications by the end of 2023. The new system will replace the current certification process for expedited processing of work permit applications. The Swedish Migration Agency and the Committee on the Labour Market will appoint a working group, which is expected to issue a report in early September 2023 with additional details.

Background

Swedish companies that fulfill [certain criteria](#) can apply to be certified by the Swedish Migration Agency and benefit from expedited processing of work permit applications. While the original processing time for applications filed by certified companies was 10 to 20 working days, new work permit applications filed by certified companies are currently being processed in four months (compared to 10 months for non-certified companies) and renewal applications in six months (compared to 16 months for non-certified companies). The certification system was originally intended to provide expedited processing for a limited number of companies (e.g., 20). At the time of publication, over 600 companies are certified under this system, and the Swedish Migration Agency is processing approximately 40,000 work permit applications sponsored by certified companies annually.

Key developments

The new system, if adopted as currently contemplated, would classify work permits under four categories:

- ▶ Category A: Work permits for highly qualified positions (e.g., managerial positions or positions where a university degree is required), usually associated with [SSYK codes](#) starting with 1, 2 or 3. The intended government processing time for these work permits is 30 days.
- ▶ Category B: Work permits governed by specialized rules (e.g., EU Blue Cards, ICT Permits, residence permits for researchers). In accordance with EU legislations, the processing time for EU Blue Cards and ICT Permits would be 90 days, while that for residence permits for researchers would be 60 days.
- ▶ Category C: Work permits for positions that are not highly qualified and do not require higher academic degrees. These include professions that provide social benefits but are not considered highly qualified (e.g., jobs in newly established companies within growth industries).
- ▶ Category D: Work permits issued to individuals working in industries identified as having an elevated potential for non-compliance with labor laws and worker rights. Professions in these industries which are considered highly qualified would also be included in this category.

Impact on employers

Employers will be able to better gauge the impact of the new system once additional details become available in September 2023.

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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