# Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2024

### **United States**

## USCIS to enable online collaboration and submission of H-1B registrations through organizational accounts

#### **Executive summary**

On 12 January 2024, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") announced the upcoming release of enhanced organizational accounts and online filing of fiscal year ("FY") 2025 H-1B petitions as well as non-cap filings. This modernization to the H-1B registration and filing process seeks to increase efficiency and collaboration between U.S. companies employing temporary foreign workers and their legal representatives, while streamlining filing processes. The improvements to organizational accounts are slated for release in February 2024, with availability of online filing shortly thereafter.

#### Background and analysis

Since 2020, U.S. companies seeking to sponsor certain H-1B temporary foreign workers have been required to perform a two-step process involving registration and filing of the petition. The registration process requires employers to electronically register and pay the associated registration fee for each prospective beneficiary. Only companies with selected beneficiary registrations are eligible to file the paper-form petition for nonimmigrant worker, Form I-129, and associated filing fees with the USCIS. The petitioning U.S. company can also elect to file Form I-907, request for premium processing service, along with the associated fee for expedited adjudication.

As part of its ongoing efforts to modernize and streamline its processes, the USCIS will launch online organizational accounts for the FY 2025 H-1B registration process and make forms I-129 and I-907 available for online filing.

Organizational accounts will allow for more efficient collaboration between companies and legal representatives as they prepare H-1B registrations. Stakeholders can expect to see improved design, process flows, and case management features in online accounts, in addition to online filing of Forms I-129 and I-907. The option to file in paper form will remain available, though USCIS will be transitioning filing locations.

#### What this means

USCIS expects to release account enhancements in February 2024, including efficient organizational accounts and online filing of Form I-129 H-1B petitions and associated Form I-907 request for premium processing. Organizations can prepare for these changes by determining those individuals who will have access to the online account for the H-1B registration and petition filing process. Individuals with access should have authority to sign, pay, and submit information on behalf of the company. Companies with existing accounts will be required to perform an upgrade to enjoy the new organizational accounts feature.

USCIS will hold two public engagements on 23 and 24 January and smaller sessions to help guide organizations through the process. U.S. companies employing temporary foreign workers should monitor the upcoming national engagements section of the USCIS <a href="website">website</a> for registration information.



**EY Law LLP** 

EY Law LLP will, of course, continue to monitor and review future developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our US immigration professionals.

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