

A photograph of a person wearing a traditional conical hat, harvesting water lilies in a pond. The person is using long wooden poles to reach into the water. The pond is filled with pink water lilies and green lily pads. The background shows a wooden boat and more lilies.

Global Immigration alert

May 2024

China Mainland

New visa-free policy for nationals of Antigua and Barbuda and Georgia

Executive summary

In May 2024, China Mainland introduced a visa-free policy for nationals of Antigua and Barbuda and Georgia.

Key developments

The policy went into effect on 11 May 2024 for qualifying Antigua and Barbuda nationals who hold diplomatic, service or ordinary passports, and will be implemented effective 28 May 2024 for Georgian nationals who hold ordinary passports. The visa exemption enables these individuals to enter China Mainland without a visa for business, tourism or family visit purposes and remain in the jurisdiction for up to 30 days per entry or up to 90 days cumulatively in any 180-day period.

Individuals who enter China Mainland for business and remain in the jurisdiction for more than 90 days (consecutively or cumulatively) in a calendar year are considered to be employed in China Mainland and require a work authorization. Holders of ordinary passports issued by one of these two countries who enter China Mainland to work, study or report news, and those who seek to stay in the jurisdiction for more than 30 days per entry, are still required to obtain a visa prior to entry.

Impact on employers

The new policy is expected to benefit employers that send eligible nationals of Antigua and Barbuda and Georgia to China Mainland for business purposes by reducing the time and expenses associated with admission.

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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