



Global Immigration alert

July 2024

Portugal

Portugal extends the validity of visas and residence permits until 30 June 2025

Executive summary

Following the presentation and approval of the Portuguese Migration Action Plan, Decree-Law 41-A/2024 was published on 28 June 2024, which further extended the validity of documents (e.g., visas and permits) that grant permission to reside and work within Portugal until 30 June 2025.

Background

On March 2020, the Portuguese authorities approved Decree-Law 10-A/2020, which extended the validity of all permits and visas that expired "on or after 13 March 2020 or in the 15 days immediately prior to that date" to 30 October 2020. The Decree and the validity of the documents were extended several times after the initial extension. The last extension indicates that the documents are valid until 30 June 2024. These extensions aim to support individuals who face delays with renewing their immigration documents following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restructuring of the Immigration and Border Services (SEF) which ultimately led to the creation of the new Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum (AIMA). This new update on the Decree-Law protects holders of impacted visas and permits from risking a gap in their residency in Portugal.

Key developments

The new decree establishes that all residence permits and visas that expired are valid under the same terms until 30 June 2025. This legislative change only applies within Portugal, and foreign authorities are not bound by this decree. This means that travel within the Schengen Area or the European Union and associated rules remain unchanged.

Impact on employers

Employers are expected to benefit from this extension since affected individuals will be able to remain employed and reside in Portugal until the new deadline (i.e., 30 June 2025).

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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