



Global Immigration alert

September 2024

Sweden

Changes to EU Blue Card regulations expected to go into effect on 1 January 2025

Executive summary

On 24 September 2024, the Swedish government presented a bill to the Swedish parliament that proposes to implement the new EU Blue Card Directive (i.e., EU Directive 2021/1883). If passed by the parliament, the changes are expected to go into effect on 1 January 2025.

Background

In March 2023, the Swedish government published a [memorandum](#) regarding the new EU Directive, which suggested changes to simplify the eligibility criteria and immigration processes related to EU Blue Cards. The implementation of the EU Directive, which was [initially](#) expected to go into effect in November 2023 and then [postponed](#), has now been presented to the Swedish parliament for a vote.

Key developments

The proposed amendments include the following:

- ▶ The minimum salary requirement would be reduced from 1.5 times the average monthly salary for the calendar year preceding the year in which the application is submitted, to 1.25 times this amount.
- ▶ Applicants would be required to have an employment contract with a duration of at least six months to be eligible for EU Blue Cards, down from one year currently.
- ▶ EU Blue Card holders whose employment details change (e.g., change of positions within the same company, change of employers within Sweden) would no longer be required to apply for a new EU Blue Card if they continue to meet the eligibility criteria for EU Blue Cards. These individuals will

simply need to notify the Swedish Migration Agency of the relevant change.

- ▶ EU Blue Cards will be available to family members of Swiss nationals and nationals of EEA Member States, holders of ICT Permits, seasonal workers, asylum seekers and individuals seeking humanitarian protection.
- ▶ Holders of EU Blue Cards issued by other EU Member States will be able to travel to Sweden and perform business activities for a duration of up to 90 days within a 180-day period.
- ▶ Additional categories of residence permit holders in Sweden will be able to convert their existing permits to EU Blue Cards from within Sweden. Currently, holders of valid Swedish permits are required to depart the country and submit EU Blue Card applications from outside Sweden.

Impact on employers

While these changes would benefit employers by simplifying EU Blue Card application requirements and making Sweden a more attractive destination for third-country nationals, if they are approved by the parliament, employers would likely face application processing delays due to expected increases in application volumes.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

Andreas Bråthe

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +46 73 3972433
Email: andreas.brathe@se.ey.com

Elsa Tirén

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +46 76 853 19 79
Email: elsa.tiren@se.ey.com

Josef Gyрмаi

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +46 70 9139626
Email: josef.gyрмаi@se.ey.com

Karin Falkman Lundberg

Assistant Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +46 72 1861165
Email: karin.falkman.lundberg@se.ey.com

Thao Vu

Senior Consultant - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +46 72 1602530
Email: thao.vu@se.ey.com

Ben Willis

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 9589
Email: ben.willis@uk.ey.com

Seema Farazi

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 7122
Email: seema.farazi@uk.ey.com

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