

Global Immigration alert

December 2025

Malaysia

Employers may now submit 2026 Projection of Expatriates applications via the ESD

Executive summary

Effective 15 December 2025, the Expatriate Services Division (ESD) announced that employers registered with the ESD may submit Projection of Expatriates applications for Employment Pass (EP) and Professional Visit Pass (PVP) for 2026. Submission of projections for employers registered with the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) will begin at a later date.

Background

The Projection of Expatriates is a forward-looking requirement that allows employers to declare anticipated expatriate hiring for the upcoming calendar year. The ESD processes projections for EP and PVP holders only. Projections apply exclusively to the year declared. For example, any unused projection for 2025 will expire at the end of this calendar year without being carried forward.

Key developments

ESD-registered employers may now submit their projections for 2026 through the [ESD system](#). Each application must include a justification for the requested number of foreign workers, details on local staff and an updated Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) company profile. Employers must ensure they select the correct projection year (i.e., 2026) and the appropriate position group, such as Top Management, Middle Management, Technical Expert or Entry Level. Once submitted, the system will approve projection applications immediately.

Impact on employers

Employers may review their workforce plans for 2026 and submit the required projection applications promptly via the ESD online portal to avoid delays and potential business disruptions.

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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EYG no. 010523-25GB1
2101-3682263
ED None

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Irene Ang
Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +603-7495-8306
Email: irene.ang@my.ey.com

Cynthia Wong
Associate Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +603-7495-8129
Email: cynthia.wong@my.ey.com

Jehan Iskandar
Senior Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +603-7495-8286
Email: jehan.iskandar@my.ey.com