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# Global Immigration alert

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## Malaysia

### Malaysia revises online appeal submission timeline for rejected Employment Pass and Professional Visit Pass applications

#### Executive summary

On 30 April 2026, Malaysia's Expatriate Services Division (ESD) announced a revision to the online appeal submission timeline for rejected Employment Pass (EP) and Professional Visit Pass (PVP) applications. Effective 15 May 2026, employers and applicants will have only 14 calendar days to submit an appeal via the ESD [online portal](#), replacing the six-month window [announced](#) in May 2025. This change materially tightens compliance timelines and is expected to have a direct operational impact on employers managing foreign workforce applications in Malaysia.

#### Background

In May 2025, Malaysia introduced an online appeal facility via the ESD portal, allowing employers and applicants to submit appeals for rejected EP and PVP applications digitally, with a submission window of up to six months from the rejection date.

Appeals are typically submitted following a rejected EP or PVP application if the company still requires the applicant to work in Malaysia under the same position title. Concrete justification for the appeal, along with additional supporting documents, is required to strengthen the appeal. Upon submission, the chartered processing time for an appeal application is 30 working days. If the company intends to change the applicant's position title and scope of work, a fresh application with a new position title may be filed instead of an appeal.

If the company chooses to forgo an appeal for a rejected application, they may request a refund of the processing fees incurred at the point of application. The refund request takes approximately 19 working days to process upon submission of complete documentation. Nonetheless, once a refund has been requested, the company must observe a

six-month cooling-off period before the company may submit a new EP or PVP application for the individual.

The latest revision aligns the appeal process with Malaysia's new expatriate employment policy, which emphasizes stricter controls and faster decision-making.

#### Key developments

Effective 15 May 2026, the following changes apply to online appeals submitted through the ESD system:

- *Significantly reduced appeal timeline:* Appeals must be submitted within 14 days from the date of rejection at the Expatriate Committee Meeting.
- *System-enforced access window:* The "Appeal" function in the ESD portal will only be accessible during the 14-day period, after which it will no longer be available.
- *No late appeals:* Appeals submitted after the 14-day deadline will not be accepted by the system.

There are no changes to all other aspects of the appeal process, such as process flow, chartered processing timeline and other alternatives to the appeal application.

#### Impact on employers

This revision introduces several important implications for employers sponsoring foreign talent in Malaysia:

- *Significantly reduced response timelines:* Employers must act quickly following a rejection, with only two weeks to prepare, review and submit an appeal, compared to the previous six-month window.
- *Increased risk of forfeiting appeal opportunities:* Failure to submit within the new strict deadline will result in the loss of the appeal option under the company's desired position title for the applicant, requiring companies to revisit an applicant's position title and assignment details to enable the initiation of a new application process altogether.

- *Greater emphasis on “first-time-right” submissions:* Given the short appeal window, employers should ensure that initial applications are complete, accurate and fully compliant with the immigration requirements to minimize the likelihood of rejection.
- *Operational disruption risks:* Delays or inability to appeal rejected applications within the revised submission window may affect project timelines, talent mobility and business continuity, particularly for time-sensitive roles.

### 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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