

Global Immigration alert

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Vietnam

Vietnam issues decree implementing the Apostille Convention

Executive summary

On 23 July 2026, the government of Vietnam issued Decree No. 293/2026/ND-CP, which provides guidance on the implementation of the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents (the "Apostille Convention"). The Decree establishes the legal framework for implementing the Apostille mechanism in Vietnam, helping to simplify administrative procedures for documents involving foreign elements.

Key developments

Effective 11 September 2026, Vietnamese public documents intended for use in [countries where the Apostille Convention applies in relation to Vietnam](#) will be authenticated through an Apostille certificate rather than consular certification. Conversely, public documents issued by member countries that bear a valid Apostille certificate may be used in Vietnam without any additional consular legalization procedures.

Documents that were certified or legalized through consular procedures before the Decree's effective date will remain valid for use in Vietnam and will not be required to undergo the Apostille process.

The Apostille mechanism applies to various types of Vietnamese public documents, including court and procedural documents, civil status documents, criminal record certificates, diplomas and certificates, medical documents, administrative documents, notarized documents and certified documents, as specified under the Decree. For countries that are not parties to the Apostille Convention, or where the Convention does not apply in relation to Vietnam, consular certification and legalization procedures will continue to apply.

Applications for an Apostille certificate may be submitted in person through the single-window unit, by post or online. Processing times generally range from one to four working days and may be extended to up to ten working days where verification is required or a large number of documents is submitted.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the competent authority responsible for issuing Apostille certificates in Vietnam. The Ministry may delegate this authority to provincial-level People's Committees in accordance with the roadmap and conditions prescribed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The new process is expected to simplify and shorten the authentication of documents commonly used in immigration matters, including those required for work permit, work permit exemption, visa and temporary residence card applications. Documents may still be required to be translated into Vietnamese, and the translations notarized or certified in Vietnam, depending on the type of document and the requirements of the authority receiving the application.

Impact on employers

Employers may benefit from a more streamlined document authentication process for foreign nationals applying for work permits, visas and related immigration permissions in Vietnam. The Apostille mechanism may reduce administrative complexity and the time required to prepare supporting documentation where the Apostille Convention applies in relation to Vietnam. Employers should continue to monitor further guidance from the competent authorities and review their internal document procedures to take advantage of the administrative benefits introduced by the Apostille mechanism.

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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