

Mobility: Immigration alert

November 2023

China Mainland

China Mainland becomes a signatory to the Apostille Convention

Executive summary

Effective 7 November 2023, China Mainland became a signatory to the Convention Abolishing the Requirements of Legalizations for Foreign Public Documents (i.e., the [Apostille Convention](#)).

Background

The 1961 Apostille Convention enables a jurisdiction that is a member of the Convention (i.e., a Contracting Party) to authenticate documents issued in that jurisdiction (e.g., birth certificates, marriage certificates and educational certificates) for use in all other Contracting Parties. As of November 2023, [126 jurisdictions](#) are Contracting Parties to the Convention. The legalization process, on the other hand, often involves multiple approvals and is time-consuming. Documents legalized by an embassy or a consulate of one jurisdiction may only be used in that jurisdiction.

Key developments

China Mainland deposited its instrument of accession to the Apostille Convention on 8 March 2023, and the Convention went into effect on 7 November 2023. Individuals seeking to authenticate documents issued in China for use in other Contracting Parties, and vice versa, can now submit apostilled documents in support of immigration applications (e.g., authorization to work, reside or study) filed in these Contracting Parties. Previously, they were required to get documents legalized by the Chinese embassy or consulate in the jurisdiction where they filed immigration applications or the Chinese authorities in China Mainland.

Impact on employers

China Mainland's accession to the Apostille Convention is expected to enable Chinese employers to attract foreign talent more effectively from other Contracting Parties, and vice versa, by streamlining the document procurement and authentication process for employees and their dependents.

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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