

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2024

China Mainland

China Mainland simplifies immigration requirements for certain travelers

Executive summary

On 11 January 2024, the National Immigration Administration of China introduced new immigration measures to facilitate the entry of foreign nationals into the jurisdiction.

Key developments

The following measures went into effect on 11 January 2024:

- ▶ Qualifying foreign nationals who seek to travel urgently to China Mainland for business, investment, family reunion or personal purposes can apply for a port visa upon arrival.
- ▶ Foreign nationals who arrive in and depart from China Mainland within 24 hours via the following airports can transit through the jurisdiction without a visa and are exempt from border inspection procedures: Beijing Capital, Beijing Daxing, Shanghai Pudong, Hangzhou Xiaoshan, Xiamen Gaoqi, Guangzhou Baiyun, Shenzhen Bao'an, Chengdu Tianfu and Xi'an Xianyang. This measure is expected to be extended to other airports in the upcoming months.
- ▶ Foreign nationals who seek to undertake short-term visits to China Mainland for business, investment, family reunion, tourism or personal purposes can apply to extend their visa or obtain a new one at an exit-entry administration office of the Public Security Bureau.
- ▶ Foreign nationals who seek to enter and exit China Mainland more than once for "legitimate reasons" (e.g., business, investment or family reunion) can apply for multiple-entry visas at an exit-entry administration office.
- ▶ Individuals who submit visa applications at an exit-entry administration office are exempt from providing certain physical documents (e.g., temporary residence registration

forms and company business licenses) if they have already been uploaded on a government portal and can be verified by the immigration authorities.

- ▶ Individuals who file short-term family reunion visa applications at an exit-entry administration office can submit a declaration of relationship instead of a certificate of relationship (e.g., marriage or birth certificate).

Impact on employers

These measures are expected to streamline the immigration process for frequent business travelers and their family members, and family members of foreigner nationals working in China.

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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