

Mobility: Immigration alert

March 2023



United Kingdom

Concession for offshore wind workers to end on 30 April 2023

Executive summary

Effective 30 April 2023, the [immigration concession](#) for offshore wind workers will end in the UK. The Home Office will require offshore workers (and their sponsors, if applicable) to report their arrivals in, and departures from, UK territorial waters effective 12 April 2023.

Background

In 2017, the UK government introduced a temporary concession in the Immigration Rules, which allowed foreign workers leave to enter the UK until 30 April 2023 without any notification for the purpose of joining a vessel engaged in the construction and maintenance of wind farms within UK territorial waters.

Key developments

Workers and businesses utilizing the offshore worker concession will be required to leave the UK by 30 April 2023. If they seek to continue working in the UK, they must apply for entry clearance from their country of residence, such as a Skilled Worker Visa, before they can resume work in the UK.

From 12 April 2023, offshore workers (and their sponsors, if applicable) will be required to notify the Home Office when they arrive in UK territorial waters for the purpose of undertaking work in those waters and when they leave.

Impact on employers

Employers may explore sponsored worker routes before the concession ends to regularize the immigration status of impacted foreign nationals in the UK. Firms may establish contingency plans regarding construction and maintenance activities relating to offshore wind projects in UK territorial waters to mitigate the impact on business. In addition, offshore workers and their sponsors (if applicable) may implement internal processes to ensure relevant notifications are made on time to the Home Office.

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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