

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2024

United Kingdom

Sponsor licences expiring on or after 6 April 2024 will be extended automatically for 10 years

Executive summary

On 24 January 2024, the Home Office notified all UK sponsor licence holders via their Sponsor Management System (SMS) accounts that from 6 April 2024, the requirement to renew the licence will be removed for all sponsors with a licence expiring on or after 6 April 2024.

Background

Under the existing rules, a sponsor licence is granted for a maximum period of four years unless it is revoked by the Home Office or the sponsor surrenders it prior to the end of the four-year period. The sponsor must apply to renew the licence before the four-year period has expired if they wish to continue sponsoring workers. The licence expiry date can be found on the licence summary page of the organization's SMS account. The Home Office automatically notifies the Authorising Officer (AO) and the Key Contact (KC) listed on the licence by email prior to the expiry date and provides instructions on how to renew their licence. If a sponsor fails to successfully renew the licence by the expiry date, the licence expires automatically.

Key developments

On 24 January 2024, the Home Office informed all registered sponsors via their SMS message page that if their licence is due to expire on or after 6 April 2024, they will no longer need to apply to renew it or pay a renewal fee. To prepare for this, the Home Office has automatically extended licence expiry dates on all impacted licences by 10 years. Impacted sponsors do not need to take any action. Sponsors can find their new expiry date on the licence summary page of their SMS account.

Impacted sponsors who have already received a notification to renew their license are instructed to ignore the notification. Impacted sponsors who have already submitted applications to renew their licence will be contacted by the Home Office to refund their licence renewal fee.

Impact on employers

This development comes as positive news for sponsors as it reduces costs and administrative burden associated with the renewal of sponsor licences.

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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