

PAS Mobility Tracker

Impact of COVID-19 on Mobility Services

15 September 2021



EY

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Important notes

- ▶ This document provides a snapshot of the policy changes that have been announced in jurisdictions around the world in response to the COVID-19 crisis. It is designed to support conversations about policies that have been proposed or implemented in key jurisdictions
- ▶ Policy changes across the globe are being proposed and implemented on a daily basis. This document is updated on an ongoing basis but not all entries will be up-to-date as the process moves forward. In addition, not all jurisdictions are reflected in this document
- ▶ Find the most current version of this tracker on [ey.com](https://www.ey.com)
- ▶ Please consult with your EY engagement team to check for new developments

EY teams have developed additional trackers to help you follow changes:

- ▶ [Force Majeure](#) - Last updated : July 2020
- ▶ [Global Trade Considerations](#) - Last updated : June 2020
- ▶ [Immigration Tracker](#) - Updated on a regular basis
- ▶ [Tax Controversy](#) - Updated on a regular basis

EY professionals are updating the trackers as the situation continues to develop. These trackers are true as on the dates mentioned and for further information, EY engagement teams must be consulted.

Overview/key issues

Overview

- ▶ With the number of confirmed cases and fatalities worldwide rising rapidly every day, many government authorities are enacting emergency measures, including payroll, tax, and social security-related measures, to address the economic and logistical challenges presented due to the spread of COVID-19 for individuals traveling within and outside of their countries.

Key issues

- ▶ Measures being introduced include the following:
 - ▶ Temporary exemption from tax residency determination, where presence in a jurisdiction is tied to a quarantine
 - ▶ Change in taxability related to paid sick leave, emergency medical leave
 - ▶ Extension of individual tax filings deadlines
 - ▶ Temporary reductions of taxes required to be withheld or paid
 - ▶ Waiver of penalties for tax payments impacted by COVID-19
 - ▶ Supplemental social security payments for classes of individuals impacted by COVID-19

Jurisdictions (72)

* Updated

Albania	Cuba	Indonesia	Panama	Turkey
Angola	Czech Republic	Ireland	Philippines *	United Kingdom
Argentina	Denmark	Israel	Portugal	Ukraine
Aruba	Dominican Republic	Italy	Puerto Rico	United States
Australia	Ecuador	Japan	Romania	Uruguay
Austria	El Salvador	Kazakhstan	Russia	Vietnam
Bangladesh	Estonia	Kenya	Rwanda	Venezuela
Belgium	Finland	Korea	Singapore	
Bosnia & Herzegovina	France	Latvia	Slovak Republic	
Brazil	Germany	Lithuania	Slovenia	
Bulgaria	Ghana	Luxembourg *	South Africa	
Canada	Greece	Malaysia	Spain	
Chile	Guatemala	Mexico	Sweden	
China Mainland	Honduras	Mongolia	Switzerland *	
Colombia	Hong Kong	New Zealand	Taiwan	
Costa Rica	Hungary	North Macedonia	Thailand	
Croatia	India	Norway	The Netherlands	

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ There are no payroll compliance changes.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The deadline for submission of the personal income tax return for FY 2020 is 30 June 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ As of 06 September 2021, transiting and entering Albania is allowed to an extent, provided the passengers have one of the following:
 - ▶ A vaccination passport
 - ▶ A negative PCR test within 72 hours or a rapid antigen test within 48 hours
 - ▶ A document from a licensed health care provider of having recovered from COVID-19 in the last 6 months

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The deadline for the final settlement of the corporate tax has been extended to 29 May 2020 for companies of group B; and 30 June 2020 for companies of group A.
- ▶ A tax credit of 12 months has been granted over the value of the Value Added Tax (VAT) payable on the import of goods and raw materials used in the production of the 54 goods listed in the Presidential Decree no. 23/19 of 14 January 2020.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The payment of the social security contribution (of 8% of the total payroll) for the 2nd quarter of 2020 can be now paid in six monthly installments, during the months of June to December 2020, without interests.
- ▶ The percentage that the private companies usually discount to the employees' salaries for payment to the Social Security of 3% shall now be paid directly to the employees' salary in April, May and June 2020.

Other major changes

- ▶ The State of Emergency has been extended until 10 May 2020.
- ▶ In general, the public services and the commercial activities for goods and services shall be reopened (except the educational institutes), although only from 8 am to 3 pm and with 50% of the staff. Still, the main rule is that citizens shall remain at home and shall only go out for necessary and urgent reasons, such as:
 - ▶ Acquisition of essential goods and services
 - ▶ Provision of services that are authorized to work and the use of such services
 - ▶ Performance of professional activities in force during the State of Emergency
 - ▶ Obtaining health care
 - ▶ Delivery of food and medicines at home

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ Assist vulnerable people
- ▶ Attend to voluntary activities
- ▶ Participate in public acts of institutions that remain operational
- ▶ Returning to their home and
- ▶ Transportation of goods
- ▶ All commercial or private flights from and to Angola continue to be suspended.
- ▶ Free movement of persons in the land borders, as well as the landing and disembark of passenger ships is not allowed.
- ▶ Companies are no longer required to proceed with the statistical registration during the State of Emergency.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No mandatory increases, bonus or concepts have been introduced in the Argentinian regulations. In addition, there are amendments to the Employment law that could be applicable. All the rules to reduce economic impact to employers have been introduced through social security taxes.
- ▶ The need to hire personnel while the "preventive and compulsory social isolation" lasts, must be considered extraordinary and transitory under the terms of article 99 of the Labor Contract Law.
- ▶ Current legislation prohibits dismissals without cause and for the reasons of lack or reduction of work and force for a sixty-day period since 31 March 2020. It also prohibits suspensions related to the abovementioned reasons the same period of time.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The due date for Forms F. 572 web (those used by employees to inform applicable income tax deductions to employers, in order to reduce income tax withholdings) has been postponed to 30 April 2020, instead of 31 March 2020. Finally, Tax Authorities have stated that a lot of applications that currently required physical presence will be done electronically until 30 June 2020 (e.g. retroactive registrations or de-registrations).

Social Security changes

- ▶ Current legislation establishes - for a period of 90 days - a reduction of 95% of the employer contributions that are destined to the Argentine Integrated Social Security System (SIPA) for employers belonging to health-related services, establishments and institutions.
- ▶ Current legislation establishes that employers which comply with certain requirements, will be granted with one or more of the following benefits:
 - ▶ **Postponement or reduction** of up to 95% of the contributions destined to the Argentine Integrated Social Security System (SIPA).
 - ▶ **Compensatory Salary:** An amount paid by the National government for all or part of the employees on the private sector. Such amount will be equivalent to 50% of the net salary of the worker as of February 2020.

Other major changes

- ▶ "Social, preventive and compulsory social isolation" was established throughout Argentina from 20 March to 6 April 2020. People affected by certain activities and services declared essential in the emergency are exempt from complying with the "social, preventive and compulsory isolation" and the prohibition to go out their homes. Law provides that workers will have the right to the full enjoyment of their habitual earnings in the above-mentioned terms established by the regulations. Workers reached by the "preventive and compulsory social isolation" will be exempt from the duty of assistance to the workplace, but When their tasks or other similar tasks can be carried out from the place of isolation, they must, within the framework of contractual good faith, establish with their employer the conditions in which said work will be carried out.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The only exception of the previously mentioned prohibition are suspensions based on the causes of lack or decrease of work, not attributable to the employer, or force majeure duly verified, agreed individually or collectively and approved by the enforcement authority.
- ▶ Dismissals and suspensions that are provided in violation of the provisions of previously mentioned paragraphs, shall not produce any effect, maintaining in force labor relations and their current conditions.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

- ▶ The abovementioned sum may not be less than a sum equivalent to one minimum, vital and mobile salary (ARS 16.875) or exceed two minimum wages, vital and mobile salary (ARS 33.750), or the total of the net salary corresponding to said month. The net salary should be considered as the sum equivalent to 83% of the gross remuneration informed to Tax Authorities in social security tax returns. Such amount must be deposited in the employee's bank accounts.
- **Comprehensive unemployment benefits system:** the workers who meet the requirements will receive an economic unemployment benefit.
- **Zero Rate Credit:** It will be granted to people adhered to the Simplified Regime for Small Taxpayers and for self-employed workers, granting 100% of the total financial cost.

Other major changes

- ▶ Regarding the "Compensatory Salary" benefit, the Committee designed to evaluate who will be granted with these benefits set forth the following additional requirements to employers in order to grant this particular benefit with respect to wages accrued in April 2020 :
 - ▶ Employer's main activity as of 12 March 2020 shall be included in the list of affected activities published by Authorities.
 - ▶ That the billing variation for the period between 12 March and 12 April 2020 with respect to the same period of the year 2019 does not register a nominal increase. That is to say that the comparison between the billing of 2020 and 2019 (in both cases, from 12 March to 12 April) is 0 or less than 0.
 - ▶ Total headcount as of 29 February 2020 must not exceed 800.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ As previously mentioned, employers must comply with one or more of the following requirements to obtain the said benefits:
 - ▶ Economic activities critically affected in the geographical areas where they take place
 - ▶ Relevant number of workers infected by COVID-19 or in compulsory isolation or with work exemption for being in a risk group or family care obligations related to COVID-19.
 - ▶ Substantial reduction in their billing after 12 March 2020.
 - ▶ Individuals who carry out activities and services declared essential in the health emergency and whose personnel have been exempted from complying with "preventive and compulsory social isolation" are excluded from the abovementioned benefits.

- ▶ For Companies with more than 800 employees in their payroll, and in order to analyze whether they should be granted with the benefits mentioned in previous paragraphs, it would be appropriate to: (i) Evaluate their financial situation based on the information collected on the AFIP (Administration of Public Income) website "Emergency Assistance Program for Work and Production - ATP" and the rest that may be deemed necessary, and establish the following requirements:
 - ▶ They will not be able to distribute profits for the fiscal periods closed as of November 2019
 - ▶ They may not repurchase their shares directly or indirectly

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ Nevertheless, and taking into account special circumstances that would have caused a high negative impact on the development of their activity or service, said subjects may submit the request to be achieved for the previously mentioned benefits and would be subject to the approval of the enforcement Authority.

- ▶ They may not acquire securities in pesos for their subsequent and immediate sale in foreign currency or their custody transfer abroad.
- ▶ They may not make distributions of any kind to subjects directly or indirectly related to the beneficiary whose residence, location or domicile is in a non-cooperative jurisdiction or with low or no taxation.
- ▶ Furthermore, the Committee anticipates that the aforementioned requirements will be applicable during a fiscal period.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No tax compliance update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ If COVID-19 is the only reason why an individual is working in Australia, and they were not intending to stay in Australia, but they have not been able to leave, for the year ending 30 June 2020, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) agreed that working in Australia for less than three months will not result in the individual being assessed for Australian tax (regardless of whether the employer is Australian or foreign).
- ▶ If COVID-19 is the only reason why an individual is working in Australia, the Australian Taxation Office has provided guidance that it will not result in the individual being assessed for Australian tax (regardless of whether the employer is Australian or foreign) as long as all of the following conditions are met.
 - ▶ The only thing that has changed about the individual's employment is that they are now doing it from Australia as a result of COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ There are currently no changes to tax filing obligations.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Superannuation impacts on individuals temporarily in Australia will depend on their residence, source of income and application of any bilateral agreement. Current ATO guidance confirms that superannuation obligations may arise for individuals who are in Australia for extended periods.

Other major changes

- ▶ Other employment tax implications should be considered (i.e., Fringe Benefits Tax, Payroll Tax and Workers Compensation).

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Relevant considerations as to whether arrangements are unchanged include employment and assignment terms and conditions, the nature of employment activities, reporting lines, involvement in the Australian business/es and with Australian customers.
- ▶ There are no other connections to Australia.
- ▶ The individual intends to leave Australia as soon as they are able to do so.
- ▶ A Double Tax Agreement (DTA) does not apply that has the effect of deeming source. This will only be the case if the individual is present for less than 183 days in accordance with the relevant DTA.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The payroll implications of this are contingent on the individual being taxable in Australia and if so, Pay-as-you-go (PAYG) withholding tax should be administered.
- ▶ While the above guidance may continue to apply after 1 July 2020, it is important to assess all factors in determining whether an individual's residence has changed. This may include whether they remain taxable in the foreign location, their working rights and the ongoing availability of accommodation.
- ▶ Treaty relief may apply where all conditions, including typically a 183 day test, are satisfied. However if 183 days is exceeded, tax may revert to the first day of presence.
- ▶ Positions should be reviewed more closely when an individual's presence exceeds 183 days in the relevant period.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Deferral of tax payments of payments in installments can be applied for, no interest will be charged, still requires reporting and requires a formal application.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Outstanding social security payments will not be urged by the social security carrier. Extensions of taxes not paid in time or paid partly will be granted automatically by the social security carrier.
- ▶ Informal payment of contributions installments are possible.
- ▶ Neither requests for collection nor bankruptcy filing will currently be introduced by the social security carrier.

Other major changes

- ▶ New "COVID-19 short-term work model": reduction of working hours of the employees without having to terminate the employment relationships and where the lost working time (hence the reduced hours) is compensated by the Public Employment Service Austria (AMS) by means of a short-time work allowance.
- ▶ Net remuneration guarantee for the employee: Depending on their gross wage, the amount of the compensation to employees is likely to range between 80% - 90% of the employee's net remuneration before short-term work. Additional costs (up to the monthly social security cap of EUR 5,370) are covered by the Public Employment Service Austria (AMS) and not the employer.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The due date for all tax-related compliances in Bangladesh pending from 26 March 2020 has been extended until 30 September 2020.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ Lockdown has been lifted in Bangladesh with conditional restriction on activities and movement of people
- ▶ To avoid further expansion of COVID-19, with effect from 16 June 2020 until further notice, all scheduled international commercial passenger flights to/from Bahrain, Bhutan, Hong Kong, India, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand and Turkey will not be allowed at any airport in Bangladesh.
- ▶ The Government of Bangladesh has now authorized the resumption of limited international commercial flights. International flights to/from Mainland China, Malaysia, Maldives, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Turkey, U.A.E. and the U.K. are permitted to operate.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ In the exceptional health context of the COVID-19 epidemic and taking into account the recommendations and instructions of the public authorities, France has agreed with Belgium and Switzerland that, until further notice, the days during which frontier workers are required to remain at home during this crisis should not be taken into account in counting the number of days referred to above. Consequently, these days will not affect the eligibility of cross-border workers for the specific tax regime.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No tax update has been issued due to COVID-19, however e-filing is possible

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ Any possible amendments to Immigration and labor regulations to be communicated.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ For the 2020 Income Tax Return, the Tax Authorities have not yet postponed the deadline. Therefore, at this time, the due date will be 30 April 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ New and more flexible rules applicable to:
 - ▶ Home office

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The employers may give up to half of the paid leave of the employees without their consent. In case the business activity of the employer has been suspended, the employer may give all the paid leave of the employees.
- ▶ In case the business activity of the employer is suspended by internal resolution, the employees should continue receiving their full salary. The validity of decisions made by medical professionals for the purposes of entitlement to sick leave and to receive social security payments may be extended during the emergency epidemic situation, and three months after its end.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ From this year onwards, 30 April 2021 is an official holiday in Bulgaria. The tax return deadline in 2021 is 5 May 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The Bulgarian state social security funds will pay 60% of their income for social security purposes if certain requirements are completed by the employer. These changes are temporary.

Other major changes

- ▶ The employers in Bulgaria are obliged to implement working from home for their employees, if possible.
- ▶ The validity of the Bulgarian ID documents is extended with six months, the residence certificates of EU citizens and residence permits (permanent and long-term residence) for third country nationals included.
- ▶ Third-country nationals with prolonged residence permits expiring during the emergency situation may request extension in 14-days term after the emergency situation and their stay will be considered uninterrupted.
- ▶ Please note that part of these changes are related to the immigration legislation and they are not related to the tax topic. These changes are temporary.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Bill C-30 received Royal Assent.
- ▶ The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) has been extended until 25 September 2021.
- ▶ Subsidy rates will gradually decline over the period from 04 July 2021 to 25 September 2021 (periods 18 to 20), from a maximum combined CEWS rate for active employees of 75% in period 17 (40% maximum base subsidy plus the 35% maximum top-up subsidy) to a maximum of 20% (10% maximum base subsidy plus a 10% maximum top-up subsidy).
- ▶ There are amendments to the definition of 'current reference period' and 'prior reference period' for the purpose of determining an employer's revenue decline for qualifying periods beginning after 05 June 2021 (periods 17 to 20).

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Amendments have been passed to allow individuals who repay certain COVID-19 benefits before 2023 to claim a deduction in computing income for the year in which the benefit was received, rather in the year the repayment was made. If the individual makes the repayment after filing their income tax return reporting the income inclusion, the individual who claimed the deduction will be able to file an adjustment.
- ▶ Other amendments ensure that COVID-19 benefits received by individuals who are considered non-resident persons for income tax purposes are included in their taxable income earned in Canada.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The maximum pensionable earnings for 2021 has been increased to USD \$61,600.
- ▶ Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) contribution rate for both employees and employers is 5.90% with the maximum contribution of USD \$3,427.90 for both employees and employers.
- ▶ Canada Pension Plan (CPP) contribution rate for both employees and employers is 5.45% with the maximum contribution of USD \$3,166.45 for both employees and employers.

Other major changes

- ▶ Travel restrictions are changing rapidly. Currently Canadians have been advised to avoid non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice.
- ▶ Avoid all cruise ship travel due to COVID-19. Travel restrictions remain in place. All travelers entering Canada must quarantine for 14 days.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ **Baseline Remuneration periods** - Introduction of alternative baseline remuneration periods for the new qualifying periods. Specifically, for claim period 17, an eligible employer can elect to use the alternative baseline remuneration period of 1 March 2019 to 30 June 2019, or 01 July 2019 to 31 December 2019. For qualifying periods 18 to 20, an eligible employer will be able to elect to use the alternative baseline remuneration period of 01 July 2019 to 31 December 2019.
- ▶ **Furloughed Employees** - Amendments to maintain the separate subsidy rate structure for furloughed employees. The weekly subsidy for furloughed employees for periods 17 to 19 will be the greater of USD 500 and 55% of the employee's baseline remuneration up to USD 595, or the amount of eligible remuneration paid to the employee in respect of the week if that amount is lower.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ The travel restrictions may result in issues concerning an individual's residency status for Canadian income tax purposes, since an individual may have been required to remain in Canada. The CRA has indicated that if an individual visiting Canada from another country has to remain in Canada solely because of the Travel Restrictions, this factor alone will not cause the CRA to consider the individual to be a resident of Canada under the common-law factual residency test. In such situations, the days during which an individual is present in Canada and is unable to return to their country of residence solely as a result of the Travel Restrictions will not count towards the 183-day limit for the deemed residency test.
- ▶ This relief applies until the earlier of the date on which the Travel Restrictions are lifted and 31 December 2021.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Executive Compensation Rule - Amendments to require a publicly listed corporation to repay CEWS amounts received for qualifying periods beginning after 05 June 2021 (period 17), if the corporation's aggregate executive remuneration for the 2021 calendar year exceeds aggregate executive remuneration for the 2019 calendar year. Executive remuneration for this purpose is the amount of compensation reported on the corporation's Statement of Executive Compensation for Named Executive Officers under National Instrument 51-102 or, where applicable, reported in similar disclosures required to be made to shareholders under the laws of another jurisdiction.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The amount of the CEWs that will be required to be repaid is the lesser of the total of all CEWS amount received in respect of active employees for qualifying periods beginning after 05 June 2021 and the amount by which the corporation's aggregate executive remuneration for 2021 exceeds its aggregate executive remuneration for 2019. If the entity is part of a corporate group, this repayment requirement will be applied at the group level and will be applicable to CEWS amounts received by any entity in the group.
- ▶ The new Canada Recovery Hiring Program (CRHP) is introduced beginning 06 June 2021.
- ▶ The earliest date to apply for claim period 17 covering the period of 06 June 2021 to 03 July 2021 is 07 July 2021.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) program has been extended until 25 September 2021. Beginning claim period 18, only employers with a decline in revenue in excess of 10% will be eligible for the CERS. Base subsidy rates under the CERS will gradually decline over claim periods 18 - 20 so that the maximum base subsidy rate will decrease from 65% in period 17 to 20%. The top-up (lockdown) subsidy rate will remain at 25% during that period. Other amendments will provide that if an eligible entity purchases the assets of another business (and certain conditions are met), the requirement to have a business number with CRA will be deemed to be met where it was previously met by the seller.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Introduction of a USD 200,000 limit on employee stock options that may benefit from the tax preferred treatment under the current employee stock option rules, effective for options granted after June 2021 (subject to certain exceptions). The changes are intended to restrict the preferential tax treatment for employees of large, long-established, mature firms while continuing to provide full tax benefits for persons employed in connection with start-up, sale-up or emerging Canadian businesses. Shares that no longer qualify for the preferential tax treatment are referred to as non-qualified securities.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The new rules do not apply to Canadian-controlled private corporations (CCPC) or non-CCPC employers with annual gross revenue of USD 500 million or less. In general gross revenue is the revenue reported in an employer's most recent annual financial statements (or, in the case of a corporate group, the ultimate parent's consolidated financial statements) prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- ▶ Employers subject to the new rules need to inform employees in writing as to which shares underlying an option grant are non-qualified securities. The notification must be made within 30 days of the option agreement being made. No particular form of notification is currently prescribed.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The employer will need to inform CRA as to which shares underlying an option grant are non-qualified securities. The notification must be made in prescribed form no later than the filing-due date for the employer's taxation year in which the option agreement is made. To date no form has been prescribed.
- ▶ The new rules impose significant new tracking obligations on the employer.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The filing deadline of the annual Affidavit by employers to the tax authorities postponed to 27 March 2020. Announcements were made on 20 March 2020 in relation to some relief measures geared mostly to small and medium size companies, which includes partial coverage of monthly income with unemployment insurance funds for cases where services cannot be provided remotely. However, this did not include any exemptions or special rules for payroll in general.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Personal Income Tax Return deadline (30/04) is still maintained, although the authorities are considering extensions.
- ▶ Regarding independent providers invoice issuance, tax withholding of 10,75% has been suspended. There are no changes regarding their regular annual tax obligations for next annual tax season, but no previous withholding would be made during this period.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No special measures have been implemented in relation to the contributions to be paid.
- ▶ Mandatory medical leave is for 14 days is issued to people traveling from countries with outbreaks, or exposed to people known to have the virus.

Other major changes

- ▶ Chilean Government has declared State of Exception for Catastrophe. Based on this, it can determine restrictions to activities, services and further actions. Government has already announced shopping centers, schools, and all places where more than 50 people may gather are to remain closed. There are also travel prohibitions, and foreign tourists cannot enter Chile.
- ▶ Mandatory quarantine, as well as other restrictions, have been already declared for determined territories.
- ▶ There are travel restrictions for entrance to the country. Only Chilean citizens and foreign residents are allowed to enter Chile, and all of them must comply a 14 days quarantine at their arrival.
- ▶ Several public institutions have suspended their regular functions, and postponed procedures for Chilean and foreign citizens in the country.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ A new law of Home Office and Remote Work has been approved and will start to be enforced.
- ▶ A new law of employment protection related to COVID-19 has been approved and has started to be enforced. This law establishes that employment contracts can be suspended as a result of a territory activities paralysis declared by the Government that suppose a total impossibility for employee to provide services. New law also establishes the possibility to agree the suspension if COVID-19 is affecting the Company. Finally, new law establishes some specific cases of Companies allowed to agree with employees the reduction of working time and remuneration. In all these cases, law allow employees to access to the Unemployment Insurance Benefits.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Individual Income Tax (IIT) exemption on additional allowance and bonus for medical staffs and qualifying personnel who has been involved in COVID-19 prevention, treatment and or handling related emergencies.
- ▶ IIT exemption on medicines, medical supplies and protective equipment provided from enterprises to employees.
- ▶ Qualifying donations are allowed as deductions in full for IIT.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Work-related Injury Insurance and Unemployment Insurance could be reduced by certain percentage till April 2022. The specific requirement is subject to the local authorities' discretion in different locations.
- ▶ The lower limit of individual social insurance base for 2019 will continue to be adopted for 2020, and the upper limit of individual base shall be adjusted normally according to the local regulations. At the current stage, the new lower or upper limit for 2021 to 2022 social security year in major cities of China has not yet been released by relevant government authorities and thus it is not confirmed whether the lower limit for 2019 still can still be applied to 2021.

Other major changes

- ▶ Mainland China closed its borders to most foreigners effective 28 March 2020. This includes foreign nationals holding visas, residence permits and APEC Business Travel Cards. Different types of port visas and visa free policy are suspended.
- ▶ The travel ban does not apply to permanent residents, holders of diplomatic/service/courtesy/C visa, or Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan residents who enter with a mainland China travel permit.
- ▶ Foreign nationals entering for necessary economic, trade, scientific, technology and emergency humanitarian reasons, as well as those entering to attend funerals of loved ones, may apply for entry visas at embassies and consulates, and these requests will be adjudicated on a case by case basis.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ All passengers entering/departing mainland China are required to make a health declaration and undergo stringent checks by immigration clearance officers at checkpoints.
- ▶ Pre-travel COVID-19 testing: All travelers, including citizens and residents, must take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and/or IgM antibody test no more than 48 hours prior to departure, depending on the specific requirements of the Chinese embassy with jurisdiction over their place of residence, in order to be eligible for admission.
- ▶ Foreigners must complete an online registration in order to be admitted to China. They will need to provide information relating to their health status, and upload their pre-travel test results, among other things, before being issued a QR code (travelers must have a QR code to enter).

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Payroll compliance changes

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Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ As of 15 March 2021, individuals in Macau, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Australia (Sydney currently), Thailand, Belgium, Norway, Israel, Ireland, Philippines, Pakistan, Vietnam, Qatar, Slovakia, Laos, Bahrain, Belarus, Gabon, Micronesia, Malta, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Indonesia (Medan currently), the United Arab Emirates, Greece, Cambodia and Kyrgyzstan who are seeking to apply for Chinese visas, and who have been inoculated with a COVID-19 vaccine produced in mainland China, are not required to obtain an Invitation Letter (PU or TE) or an Invitation Verification Notice issued by the Chinese foreign affairs authorities, the departments of commerce of the provincial governments (including autonomous regions and municipalities), or the headquarters of central state-owned enterprises.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ Quarantine requirements vary across China. In Guangdong Province, a 14-day centralized quarantine (i.e., at a government-designated hotel) is required, followed by a seven-day home quarantine. In Jiangsu Province, a 14-day centralized quarantine is required, followed by 14 days of community health monitoring. In Zhejiang Province, a 14-day centralized quarantine is required, followed by a 7-day home quarantine. In Shanghai, a 14-day centralized quarantine is required, followed by a 7-day health observation period. In Beijing, a 14-day centralized quarantine is required, followed by a 7-day home observation period and another 7-day home health monitoring period.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ Macau residents are exempted from quarantine requirements, provided that they:
 - ▶ are in possession of a valid entry and exit document
 - ▶ obtained a negative nucleic acid COVID-19 test certificate, and a green 'health code' (in the health code app), no more than seven days prior to their desired entry
 - ▶ did not travel in the 14 days leading up to their desired entry to mainland China

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No changes to the payroll procedures have been made yet. However, through different resolutions, the government has recommended the following strategies to reduce employments costs over the crisis period:
 - ▶ Vacations: Companies may notify vacation periods one day in advance, omitting the fifteen-day requirement defined in the labour Code. This will reduce the vacation accrual provision by granting collective and anticipated vacations periods to the staff.
 - ▶ Severance: The government has authorized that employees who have experienced a reduction of their labour income due salary reductions, may request a partial withdrawal of their severance funds. The amount to be withdrawn should be equivalent to percentage of the employee's income reduction.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The Administrative Unit of Pension Contributions and Payroll Taxes (UGPP), which is the authority that verifies the correct payment of social security contributions and payroll taxes, has suspended the terms of all ongoing inspection processes until the Emergency State has been overcome (Resolution 385 1 April 2020).
- ▶ Under Resolution 140 dated 5 March 2021, the Administrative Unit of UGPP has resumed terms for the current inspection processes, beginning 15 March 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The government announced a possible deferment in the due date to report and deposit Payroll Taxes (SENA, ICBF, CCF), for companies belonging to aviation, tourism and event development industries up to 17 April 2020. However, the expedition of the corresponding Decree is still pending.
- ▶ Pursuant to Decree 588 of 2020, contributions to the Pension System corresponding to the months of April and May, which must be paid on May and June, will be equivalent to a contribution of a 3% of the basic income. Employers and employees may chose this option. Of this quota, 25% will be assumed by the employee, and 75% will be assumed by the employer. On a regular basis, the percentage corresponds to: a 16% (12% for the employer and 4% for the employee.)

Other major changes

- ▶ On 17 March 2020, Ivan Duque, President of Colombia established a Emergency State, which means he is entitled to legislate on any matter with a force of law. Lately, he announced that promptly the government will define a series of aids and measures to help employers maintain operating costs related to human resources over the crisis period.
- ▶ In some cases, companies are considering the suspension of employment agreements. Pursuant to Article 51 of the labour code, an employment contract may be suspended "set dormant" under multiple reasons, including a permission granted by the employer ("non-remunerated leave"), or an event of force majeure. During the period of suspension, the employee shall not pay the corresponding salary, as no service will be rendered by the employee.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Family compensation fund (FCF): Individuals who may be dismissed over the crisis period, can request a relief before the Family Compensation Fund, that will include a month of Social Security Contributions with a minimum wage basis and two minimum wage allowance.
- ▶ Transportation allowance: Please consider that during the time employees are working remotely on home, the legal mobilization allowance that should be paid to employees earning up to two minimum legal wages (COP1.755.606), must not be granted, as they are not assuming any transportation costs.
- ▶ Flexible work shifts: Parties may agree to reduce the ordinary working shift as certain operations are decreasing abruptly. This will imply a reduction on the salary.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

- ▶ Social security contributions can be paid late without having interest incurred on these payments, for contributions in force from March to November 2020.
- ▶ The Constitutional Court declared Decree 588 of 2020 unconstitutional. Now, employers and employees might pay the 13% non-paid pension contributions in a period of 36 months or less. Quota will not include interest on latest payments. It is pending the expedition of the form used by companies to pay the difference through the collection operator. It is important to mention that both, employee and employer, should pay the contribution considering that was not an omission caused by the employer.

Other major changes

- ▶ During the period of suspension, the employer is not entitled to pay the corresponding salary, as no service will be rendered by the employee. Furthermore, the labour code in Article 51 has determined as a suspension effect that for companies is mandatory to continue paying the social security contributions in health (8.5%) and pension (12%) in their percentages. Regarding the contribution to the labour Risks System, these are also suspended due to the lack of execution of any labour activity which may arise an eventual risk.
- ▶ Moreover, regarding the payment of fringe benefits (severance and interest over severance) and vacations, according to article 53 of the labour code, employer has the right to discount the corresponding suspension days from the basis to calculate these payments.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Adjustment of the apprentices' quota before the National Service of Apprentices (SENA): A company must hire one apprentice for every 20 employees and one additional apprentice for a group of employees that does not exceed 20. Companies with 15 to 20 employees will have one apprentice. As a consequence of the Emergency State declared by the National Government, SENA determined to suspend:
 - ▶ The process to rule the apprentices' quota for companies obliged to
 - ▶ To enter into an apprenticeship contract if the company has an administrative act that modifies the quota,

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

- ▶ Based on Decree 376, 2021, companies might start the payment plan of the pending 13% pension contributions from June 2021. The form to be used for the aforementioned payments is yet to be confirmed.
- ▶ Based on Resolution 639, 2021 The Ministry of Health filed the forms to be used for the payments of the 3% related to the non paid contributions for the months of April and May of 2020.

Other major changes

- ▶ Annual FS before Superintendence of Corporations were extended 15 days and annual renewal before Chamber of Commerce were extended until 3 July.
- ▶ Annual CIT were extended 1 week.
- ▶ For companies who applied for a diminish of social security contributions, for April and May, should pay in a time elapsed of 36 months the difference equivalent to 13% related to pension contributions.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Legal terms for penalty processes and administrative process to file legal remedies from 17 March 2020 to 13 April 2020. For apprentices that have been already hired and are in an academic phase, SENA ruled that they must continue studying by technology platforms and if they are in the practical phase, their apprentices contract can be suspended according to measures taking by the company.
- ▶ Based on Decree 777, 2021 employee of the Public Sector should return to physical work. For employees already vaccinated, the return is mandatory.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The Colombian Tax Authority 'DIAN' created the obligation for the companies to file an electronic payroll. This obligation will be in force from September 2021. Companies must embed all the payroll concepts in an xml file, with a specific code 'NIE' created by the tax authority.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Costa Rican deputies approved the bill presented by the Ministry of Work that will allow employers whose businesses are suffering a substantial reduction of their income to bring down their employees' workdays by as much as 50%.
- ▶ The bill would allow employers to bring down the number of hours worked by some or all employees by as much as 50% in the case of companies that have experienced a decrease in their income of at least 20%, in the case of companies that see their income reduced by as much as 60% they can bring down the workday as much as 75%.
- ▶ This measure can be applied for a period of three months but can be extended for two additional periods for a maximum of 9 months. Once the company's conditions go back to normal the employees can resume their work under the original contract.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ This is only for companies, where tax related to salaries remain the same.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Reduction of the minimum tax base on 25%. This is related to the employer contribution, for the employees remain the same.
- ▶ Inclusion of new type of sick leave related to the people that could have had any relation with a positive case of COVID-19 that needs to be in quarantine.
- ▶ Also the INS (Labor risk insurance) will cover the sick leave in case that the case were on the Job.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ For companies who prove their net incomes are reduced by 20%, the schedule of their employees can be reduce by 50% and pay only by 50% of their salaries. If the decrease of the incomes for the companies is up to 60%, the workday can be reduce by 75%.
- ▶ Starting on July 2020 to 2024, national holidays are going to be moved to the next Monday.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Currently being discussed, potential extension of tax payment deadlines.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Social security authorities are flexible due to COVID-19. For UK citizens, A1 is still applicable. No further changes have occurred.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ There are no payroll services provided by EY.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Authorities have limited the access to banks and tax authorities have informed the population that the deadline for paying personal taxes will be extended until such time as the banks resume their normal operations.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No changes in Social Security. Foreigners are not entitled to social security in Cuba, and Cuban nationals cannot be employed directly by a Foreign Corporation.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ None applicable now in relation to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Important tax law changes went into effect on 01 January 2021, but these are not related to COVID-19. The changes include tax base calculations for employees, introduction of two tax rates and abolishment of the solidarity tax.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic is not a relevant change of circumstances justifying a change in the applicable legislation in the field of social and health insurance valid in the EU or a change of the county of insurance.
- ▶ The A1 certificates issued on grounds of prior valid circumstances remain in force.

Other major changes

- ▶ Following The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) opinion on possible solutions to current (originated) situations having international tax aspects, by applying double tax treaties (issued on 3 April 2020), the Czech Tax Authority is hesitant to follow the OECD approach, i.e., mainly that performance of employee activities, from the home office in a country other than the state of residence of the employer, should not lead to the creation of a foreign permanent establishment.
- ▶ The Czech Tax Authority currently declares they will strictly follow the provisions of the Double Tax Treaties and a different approach would only be possible if the wording of the treaties changed.

Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ Employees and their employers are thus not obliged:
 - ▶ To report a temporary change of the situation (e.g. home office) to the Czech locally competent social security administration,
 - ▶ To return the issued certificate of applicability (A1 form) if they intend to continue their gainful activity in the territory of several Member States as soon as the restrictions terminate.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The reduced General Healthcare System contribution rates, on collections which are managed by the Tax Department, will apply for three additional months.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The reduced General Healthcare System contribution rates, on collections which are managed by the Social Insurance Department, will apply for three additional months.
- ▶ Extension for February's social insurance liabilities until 14 April 2020 (initial deadline was 31 March 2020).
- ▶ Individuals and companies who have regulated the payment of their overdue social contributions in installments, can defer relevant payments that are due for the months of March and April 2020 by extending the agreed repayment period by two months.

Other major changes

- ▶ The following measures have been announced which will affect the payroll:
 - ▶ Special sickness allowance
 - ▶ Special leave allowance for parents
 - ▶ Work suspension plans (fully or partly) which will provide special unemployment allowance

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ There is a postponement of payment of withholding taxes for a few months in 2020. There is no postponement of reporting obligations.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The deadline for 2019 tax return was postponed from 1 July 2020 to 1 September 2020. The deadline for 2020 tax return has also been postponed from 01 July 2021 to 01 September 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The social security authorities has announced that temporary work at home in Denmark or another country does not affect the social security status. i.e., Danish social security can be kept and social security contributions to the home country can be avoided. A PAN European announcement supports this. No A1 has to be filled unless the social security in the home country asks for it.

Other major changes

- ▶ Special COVID-19 changes from 9 March to 30 June 2020:
 - ▶ Amendment of rules for full tax liability and rules regarding exemption for foreign salary income (due to COVID-19)
 - ▶ Amendment of requirement for special expat scheme (due to COVID-19)

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Employers can suspend the labour contract of their employees and use the FASE program until December 2020.
- ▶ The Dominican Government shall provide a minimum of RD\$5,000 and a maximum of RD\$8,500. If the contributor earns a salary of RD\$5,000, the state subsidy will cover 100% of this salary. If the employee salary is above RD\$5,000, the State will cover 70% and the employer, if desired (not mandatory), will cover 30% of that value. This is subject to the state contribution having a ceiling of RD\$8,500.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The payment of the Annual Income Tax (ISR) that must be made in April by all companies that close the fiscal year in December will be allowed to be divided into four payments.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ The Government established a curfew throughout the national territory, prohibiting the transit and movement of people from 8 pm. to 6 am. from 20 March 2020 to 3 April 2020.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No tax compliance update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Draft suspension of the law on fiscal responsibility for the emergency. The aforementioned Project seeks to temporarily suspend, for the duration of the effect of the national emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fiscal Responsibility Law for the Sustainability of Public Finances and Social Development, and consequently, the application of the parameters and fiscal goals required in said Law.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ Close of several entities and public places. There was a hold up of payments for public services during three months.

Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The tax authorities have suspended the calculation of default interest on tax debt with retroactive effect from 1 March 2020 until the end of emergency situation in 17 May 2020.
- ▶ From 18 May 2020, the applicable interest rates are reduced from 0.06 % (per day) to 0.03 % until 31 December 2021. The interest rates can be reduced up to 100 % (current possible reduction is 50 %) in case the tax authority and taxpayer agree on the payment of tax arrears in instalments.
- ▶ Tax authorities have provided guidelines about cross-border taxation and residency matters related to COVID-19 restrictions.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The obligatory pension fund (II pillar) payments were suspended by the state for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 August 2021. The employee also had the right to suspend payment to the obligatory pension fund for the period 01 December 2020 to 31 August 2021.

Other major changes

- ▶ Starting from January 2021, the right to tax the earnings of non-residents working in Estonia has been expanded. Until end of 2020, the non-resident individual employment income became taxable in Estonia from day one, if the payer was an entity registered in Estonia or a foreign entity with a permanent establishment in Estonia. Going forward, Estonian tax obligation arises for the non-resident rental employee from day one and if the user is an entity registered in Estonia. Nevertheless, the registration and withholding requirements arising from this are still applicable to the foreign formal employer only and not to the user entity.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The tax authorities have published guidance on 3 March 2020 on how the six month tax exemption rule related to assignment and other cross-border situations will be interpreted in situations where an individual is supposed to work in areas affected by COVID-19, but has temporarily returned to Finland.
- ▶ The position adopted in the guidance regarding whether salary can remain exempt from Finnish tax under such circumstances is strict and the guidance has not since been updated to take into account recent developments. A case-by-case analysis of the aforementioned situation is required.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The government has stated that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health will be issuing a decision, which extends deadlines for paying statutory pension insurance contributions by up to three months and partially waives the interest due on such payments.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ For 2021, on line tax forms have been amended to take into account agreements signed with border countries (Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, etc.). Paper tax filing deadline is 20 May 2021 and online between 26 May and 8 June 2021 for 2020 French income tax returns. Agreements with border countries to tax COVID-19 days have again been extended until 30 September 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ On applicable social security legislation : For workers covered by the social security legislation of another EEA (European Economic Area) State or Switzerland (frontier workers, multistate workers or posted workers) and working from their home in France, France has agreed not to consider the days teleworked from France due to the exceptional sanitary situation and confirmed that these days will not affect the applicable social security legislation. It is also applicable to French residents habitually working in Monaco. For the time being no formalities/Certificate of Coverage (CoC) application is requested by the French authorities. Guidelines are not yet released for employees residing in France and coming from another totalized country or from non-totalized countries.

Other major changes

- ▶ France has set up a system of exemption from employer social security contributions and payment support applicable to selected sectors of activities most severely affected by the current crisis.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ On health insurance : French citizens, returning to France between 1 March 2020 and 1 June 2020 and having no professional activity (i.e., inactive individuals) and receiving no social benefits (pension or unemployment benefits) once in France, can be eligible to basic state medical coverage upon their return without the regular three-month waiting period.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Short-time allowance can be applied for employees by employers, for wage tax no application to postpone payment but for waiver/suspension of enforcement measures possible.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Application to postpone tax payments and to waive/suspend enforcement measures until 31 December 2020. Agreements with Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Austria on treatment of home office due to COVID-19 of cross-border workers concluded (home office days deemed to have been spent in the state in which work originally would have been performed).
- ▶ Employers can apply for a deadline extension for submitting monthly/quarterly wage-tax return if the delay is due to the pandemic.
- ▶ Deadline for filing of income tax returns for the year 2019 that are prepared by a tax advisor is extended to 31 August 2021. The period of 15 months for which no interest is calculated has been extended to 21 months for all taxpayers.

Social Security changes

- ▶ A simplified application for postponing social security contributions is possible for January, February, March and April 2021, but only if other measures are not sufficient.

Other major changes

- ▶ Financial assistance measures for small companies and self-employed.
- ▶ Short-time allowance can be applied for employees by employers.
- ▶ Employers can pay EUR 1,500 (tax-free) to employees to mitigate COVID-19 consequences if the payment is made on top of the remuneration that is already due to the employee (e.g. no conversion of bonus payments or bases salary that the employer owes). Deadline for this tax-free payment is 30 June 2021.
- ▶ A lump-sum deduction of 5 EUR per home-office day (600 EUR max p.a.) can be deducted in the employee's income tax return for 2020 and 2021. However, if the work-related expenses do not exceed the standard deduction of 1,000 EUR per year for employment-related expenses, the lump-sum deduction for home-office will not reduce the tax contribution.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Deadlines for filing of tax returns for the year 2020 will be extended by three months (to 31 May 2022 if the tax return is prepared by a tax advisor). The interest-free time period (for tax payments and refunds) is to be extended to 18 months.

Social Security changes

Other major changes

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The annual individual tax filing deadline may be extended only after applying to the Commission general to do so. This application must be filed with Capital Gains before the filing deadline and the maximum extension that can be granted is 60 days (2 months) after the filing deadline. The application must be done before the deadline for filing.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ According to circular 2130/2021, apart from the period 18 March 2020 to 15 June 2020 which has already been exempted as days counting for tax residency determination, due to the pandemic, the new circular further exempts the period 09 November 2020 to 14 May 2021 for the determination of tax residency.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No tax update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The government request that IGSS (Instituto Guatemalteco de Seguridad Social - Guatemalan Institute of Social Security), INTECAP (Instituto Técnico de Capacitación y Productividad - Technical Institute for Training and Productivity) and IRTRA (Instituto de Recreación de los Trabajadores de la Empresa Privada de Guatemala - Sports City), accept payment of employer fees deferred for March, April and May.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The Tax institution (SAR) communicates extension of deadlines for the presentation of certain declarations and the deadline for issuing tax documents.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The Inland Revenue Department announced 9 April 2020 that if taxpayers for salaries tax, personal assessment and profits tax have already settled the first payment in accordance with the demand note for the year of assessment 2018/19, the deadline for the second payment is automatically extended for three months from the date specified on the demand note. The above relief measure is not applicable to taxpayers who have to settle their tax liabilities before departing Hong Kong, taxpayers paying property tax and taxpayers who have been approved to pay their taxes by installments.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ The Government announced on 23 March 2020 that it will ban non-Hong Kong residents coming from overseas countries or territories arriving at the airport from entering Hong Kong for 14 days starting from 25 March 2020.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The Chief Executive announced 8 April 2020 that to ease the financial burden and cash flow of businesses and individuals arising from COVID-19, tax payment deadlines for salaries tax, personal assessment and profits tax demand notes for the year of assessment 2018/19 which fall between April to June of this year are automatically extended by three months.
- ▶ The Inland Revenue Department announced 4 April 2020 that in view of the latest situation of COVID-19, deadlines for tax payments and lodgement of objections and holdover applications as well as submission of tax returns and information that fall between 23 March 2020 and 2 May 2020 are automatically extended to 4 May 2020.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The Inland Revenue Department announced 22 March 2020 that from 23 March 2020 it will suspend the provision of all of its services, except for enquiries relating to tax clearance, business registration and stamp office.
- ▶ Deadlines for tax payments, lodgement of objections and holdover applications as well as submission of tax returns and information that fall between 23 March and 3 April 2020 will be automatically extended to 6 April 2020.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No Tax update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Social Security changes

- ▶ In certain cases, new A1 certificate of coverage (CoC) should be applied on exception basis within the European Economic Area (EEA).

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ There have been no payroll changes introduced in India on account of COVID-19. However, the central and various state governments have issued guidelines in relation to employment and payment of remuneration to employees.
- ▶ The statutory Provident Fund contribution for both employer and employee will be reduced to 10 percent from existing 12 percent each for the wage months May, June and July 2020. Public Sector undertakings will however continue to contribute 12 percent as employer contribution.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The due date for filing of the belated and revised income-tax returns for financial year 2018-19 has been extended from 31 March 2020 to 30 June 2020.
- ▶ The due date for furnishing the tax audit report for tax year 2019-20 has been extended to 31 October 2020.
- ▶ The due date for filing Income-tax returns for tax year 2019-20 has been extended to 30 November 2020.
- ▶ Aadhaar-Permanent Account Number (PAN) linking has been extended from 31 March 2020 to 30 June 2020. Thus, PAN shall not be treated as inoperative until 31 March 2021, even if not linked with Aadhaar.
- ▶ The benefit of settlement under Vivad Se Vishwas Act without payment of an additional amount will be extended from 30 June 2020 to 31 December 2020.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Subject to conditions, a non-refundable advance from the Provident Fund account of members may be granted not exceeding the basic wages and dearness allowances of that member for three months or up to 75% of the amount standing to the credit of the member in the Fund, whichever is less.
- ▶ Government of India will pay the Provident Fund contribution of employer and employee for next three months for those establishments who have less than or equal to 100 employees and 90% of those employees are earning less than INR 15,000 per month. This support will be extended by another 3 months to June, July and August 2020.
- ▶ The statutory Provident Fund contribution for both employer and employee will be reduced to 10% from the existing 12% for each of the wage months May, June and July 2020.

Other major changes

- ▶ Indian Government has been issuing various travel advisories and immigration restrictions.
- ▶ Lockdown in the containment zones is to continue until 30 June 2020.
- ▶ Prohibited activities will be re-opened in a phased-in manner in areas outside the containment zones.

Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Due dates for filing of appeal or furnishing of return and time limit for completion of proceedings by the authority and any compliance by the taxpayer including investment in saving instruments or roll over capital gains benefits where the time limit expires between 20 March 2020 to 29 June 2020 under various direct tax laws has been extended to 30 June 2020.
- ▶ Interest rate on the delayed payments of advance tax/self-assessment tax/regular tax etc. made between 20 March 2020 to 30 June 2020 has been reduced from 12%/18% to 9% per annum (i.e., 0.75% per month instead of 1%/1.5% per month). Also, no late fee/penalty shall be charged for delay relating to this period.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Public Sector undertakings will however continue to contribute 12 percent as employer contribution.
- ▶ The due date for payment of contribution to Provident Fund and administration charges/inspection charges for the month of March 2020 has been extended from 15 April 2020 to 15 May 2020 to employers who have disbursed wages for March 2020 to their employees.
- ▶ Subject to conditions, a non-refundable advance from the Provident Fund account of members may be granted not exceeding the basic wages and dearness allowances of that member for 3 months, or up to 75% for the amount standing to the credit of the member in the Fund, whichever is less.

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The period of limitation in relation to assessments which are getting time barred on 30 September 2020 (i.e., for tax year 2017-18) is extended to 31 December 2020. Further, the period of limitation in relation to assessments which are getting time barred on 31 March 2021 is extended to 30 September 2021.
- ▶ The rate of withholding/collection of taxes for non-salaried specified payments (such as payment for contract, professional fees, interest, rent, dividend, commission, brokerage, etc.) made to residents is reduced by 25% of their existing rates. The reduced rate will be effective from 14 May 2020 and will be applicable until 31 March 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The Government of India will pay the Provident Fund contribution of employer and employee for those establishments who have less than or equal to 100 employees, and have 90% of those employees whose earning are less than INR 15,000 per month. This was provided earlier for the salary month of March, April and May 2020. This support will be extended for another 3 months to salary months of June, July and August 2020.
- ▶ The statutory Provident Fund contribution for both employer and employee will be reduced to 10% from 12% for the next 3 months. Public Sector undertakings will however continue to contribute 12% as employer contribution.

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

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- ▶ Donations to the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund), a new fund set up in relation to COVID-19 related activities will be eligible for 100% deduction from taxable income. Donations made up to 30 June 2020 are eligible for deductions to the tax year 2019-2020.
- ▶ The Indian authorities have relaxed tax residency provisions for the tax year 2019-20 (April to March) on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. Presence in India during this said period will be disregarded for evaluating tax residential status for the tax year 2019-20 as summarized below. The benefit is provided only to individuals who are based outside of India and had come to visit India before 22 March 2020.

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Other major changes

- ▶ Unable to leave India on or before 31 March 2020 (22 March 2020 to 31 March 2020) to be disregarded for determining residential status
- ▶ Quarantined in India on or after 1 March 2020 and left India in an evacuation flight on or before 31 March 2020
 - ▶ Beginning of the quarantine period to date of departure to be disregarded for determining residential status
- ▶ Quarantined in India on or after 1 March 2020 and unable to leave India on or before 31 March 2020
 - ▶ Beginning of quarantine period to 31 March 2020
- ▶ Left India in an evacuation flight on or before 31 March 2020 (22 March 2020 to date of departure)

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Other major changes

- ▶ The end date for compliances falling due between 20 March 2020 until 31 December 2020 has been extended to 31 March 2021. While this is a general relaxation, shorter extension of due dates have been provided for specific compliances by taxpayers.
- ▶ The due date for filing of the belated and revised income-tax returns for tax year 2018-19 has been extended from 31 March 2020 to 30 September 2020.
- ▶ The due date for filing the withholding tax return by companies for the period January 2020 to March 2020 for salary has been extended to 31 July 2020 and due date of issuing salary withholding tax certificates to the employees for tax year 2019-20 is extended to 15 August 2020.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The due date for furnishing the tax audit report for tax year 2019-20 has been extended to 31 October 2020.
- ▶ The due date for filing of the Income-tax returns for tax year 2019-20 has been extended to 30 November 2020.
- ▶ Aadhaar-Permanent Account Number (PAN) linking has been extended from 31 March 2020 to 31 March 2021.
- ▶ The benefit of settlement under Vivad Se Vishwas Act without payment of additional amount shall be extended from 30 June 2020 to 31 December 2020.

Social Security changes

Other major changes

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Other major changes

- ▶ The period of limitation in relation to assessments which are getting time barred on 30 September 2020 (i.e., for tax year 2017-18) is extended to 31 December 2020. Further, the period of limitation in relation to assessments which are getting time barred on 31 March 2021 is extended to 30 September 2021.
- ▶ Interest rate on the delayed payments of advance tax/self-assessment tax/regular tax etc. made between 20 March 2020 to 30 June 2020 has been reduced from 12%/18% to 9% per annum (i.e., 0.75% per month instead of 1%/1.5% per month). Also, no late fee/penalty shall be charged for delay relating to this period.

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Tax compliance changes

- ▶ In case of resident senior citizens, self-assessment tax for the tax year 2019-20 paid on or before 31 July 2020 shall be treated as advance tax such that if the balance self-assessment tax payable at the time of furnishing returns is less than INR 1,00,000, then no interest shall apply for delayed furnishing of returns until the extended due date of 30 November 2020.
- ▶ The rate of withholding/collection of taxes for non-salaried specified payments (such as payment for contract, professional fees, interest, rent, dividend, commission, brokerage, etc.) made to residents is reduced by 25 percent of their existing rates. The reduced rate will be effective from 14 May 2020 and will be applicable until 31 March 2021.

Social Security changes

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Donation to Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund ('PM CARES Fund'), a new fund set up in relation to COVID-19 related activities will be eligible for 100 percent deduction from taxable income. The donations made up to 30 June 2020 are eligible for deduction in relation to tax year 2019-20.

Social Security changes

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Payroll tax for employee of organizations in certain industries with certain levels of income will be borne by the Government up to tax period June 2021.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ On 17 February 2021, the Minister of Finance has issued the implementation regulation Peraturan Menteri Keuangan 18/PMK.03/2021 for Omnibus Law tax cluster. Below are the implementation regulations related to individual taxpayer:
 - ▶ Resident taxpayer (SPDN) - There is no change in the regulations to determine an individual to be a tax resident in Indonesia. The PMK provides more detailed explanations about the definition of domicile and indicator of intention to reside in Indonesia.
 - ▶ Foreign individual resident taxpayer - Foreign individuals who are considered as resident taxpayers will be subject to tax only on Indonesian-sourced income within four years of them becoming a tax resident if they possess certain expert skills i.e., the expert skills in the area of science, technology, and mathematics.

Social Security changes

- ▶ There is an update on salary cap maximum to calculate Pension contribution per March 2021 i.e., IDR 8,754,600. Previously, salary cap maximum to calculate pension contribution was IDR 8,939,700.

Other major changes

- ▶ The Indonesian COVID-19 Task Force Team (Satgas COVID-19) has issued an Addendum of Circular Letter No. 8 Year 2021 regarding international travel during pandemic (SE).
- ▶ The protocols will be implemented effective on 06 July 2021.
- ▶ Quarantine of 8 x 24 hours applies to Indonesian citizens, foreigners (including Diplomats) - at quarantine accommodation certified by Ministry of Health (MoH), and foreign representatives on duty in Indonesia and their family can perform the quarantine at their residence.
- ▶ 1st RT-PCR test will be performed at the airport upon arrival.
- ▶ 2nd RT-PCR test will be performed on day seven of the quarantine.

Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ Foreign individuals with certain expert skills include the expatriates who occupy certain position as regulated by the Ministry of Manpower, and foreign researchers as regulated by Ministry of Research and Technology. There are 25 positions (ISCO/KBJI) that have been determined by the Ministry of Finance. The possession of certain skills must be proved by a certificate issued by the Indonesian government or the home country of the expatriate. Also required, an educational certificate along with work experience with a minimum of five years in that skill.
- ▶ Included as income earned or received from Indonesia by foreign citizens are employment, services or activities carried out in Indonesia that are paid outside of Indonesia. However, the exemption does not apply to foreign citizens who claim benefits under

- ▶ If tested negative, the travelers can continue their travel and will be advised to continue with self-isolation for 14 days.
- ▶ If tested positive, they will be hospitalized, for which the cost is borne by the government for Indonesian Citizens, or at their own cost for the foreigners.
- ▶ There is a requirement to have a complete vaccination card/certificate.
- ▶ Indonesian Citizen must show a complete vaccination card/certificate to enter Indonesia.
- ▶ If they have not been vaccinated while overseas, then they will be vaccinated in Indonesia after the 2nd PCR is tested negative.
- ▶ Foreigners entering Indonesia must show a complete Vaccination Card/Certificate (physical or digital).

Payroll compliance changes

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Other major changes

tax treaty provisions. To be able to report tax based on Indonesian sourced income only, the foreign individual must obtain an approval from the Director General of Taxation.

- ▶ Non-resident taxpayer (SPLN) - Indonesian citizen who resides outside of Indonesia for more than 183 days within a 12 months period could be considered as non-resident. To be taxed on Indonesian source of income only, they need to obtain a 'non-resident letter' issued by the tax office. For an Indonesian national who has an intention to become a non-resident, they can submit an application to be a non-effective taxpayer (certain condition to be met) before they leave Indonesia. Dividend received from Indonesia and overseas would be excepted as tax object with the terms that the dividend income should be invested in Indonesia within a certain period.

- ▶ Foreigners who are already in Indonesia and will travel both domestic and international must complete the vaccination as per prevailing regulation.
- ▶ Exception applies to holders of Diplomatic Visa and Official Visa for official visit to Indonesia at Minister Level and foreigners entering Indonesia under Travel Corridor Arrangement (TCA).

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection has introduced a refund scheme for employers. Under an arrangement developed with Revenue, employers who have to temporarily lay-off staff and who are not in a position to make any wage payment to them, are asked to keep their employees on the payroll and pay them an amount of euro203 - the equivalent of the COVID-19 Support Payment. The payment is not subject to tax, Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) or Universal Social Charge (USC).

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No tax update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ The Revenue Commissioners are currently updating their manual for e-workers. Currently e-Workers will incur certain expenditure in the performance of their duties from home, such as additional heating and electricity costs. The Revenue Commissioners allow an employer to make payments up to €3.20 per day to employees who satisfy the conditions for the relief, without deducting Pay As You Earn (PAYE), Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) or Universal Social Charge (USC).
- ▶ Amounts in excess of €3.20 paid by the employer should be subjected to tax. Records of payments made must be retained by the employer for the purpose of any potential future Revenue Commissioners compliance intervention.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Corporate and individual returns with extension up to 30 June 2020 for hard copy and 30 July 2020 for electronic filing.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Postponement of April payments and allowing to pay it in portions instead of at once. No collection procedures and foreclosure steps will be implemented.

Other major changes

- ▶ Government loans for small and medium size businesses are now available.
- ▶ Value added tax(VAT)- February reporting and payment is postponed: monthly reporting moved to 26 March 2020 and bi-monthly to 27 April 2020.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ On 17 March 2020, the Italian Government passed the so called Cure Italy decree which provides new measures to support the Italian economy, financing the family, the workers and the entrepreneurs due to the COVID-19 crisis. In detail, the Decree introduces the following from a Payroll perspective- The payment deadline expiring between 8 March 2020 - 31 May 2020 related to the SSC bills notified by the SSC Authorities is postponed to 30 June 2020.
- ▶ On 8 April 2020, the Italian Government passed the so called "liquidity" decree which provides new measures to support the companies, postponing the tax & social security contributions (SSC) payments deadline and offering financial support to avoid a default risk for the Italian companies.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The Cure Italy Decree introduces the following changes from Tax perspective:
 - ▶ The payment deadline expiring between 8 March 2020 to 31 May 2020 related to the tax bills notified by the Tax Authorities is postponed to 30 June 2020.
 - ▶ The activities of the Italian Tax Authorities for the period 8 March 2020 to 31 May 2020 are suspended.
 - ▶ The ordinary statute of limitation (31 December 2020) applied to the activities performed by the Italian Tax Authorities (Agenzia delle Entrate) and/or by the Italian public entity responsible for collection of taxes (Agenzia delle Entrate-Riscossione) is extended for 2 years (31 December 2022).
 - ▶ The simplified tax return deadline (Form 730) is postponed from 23 July 2020 to 30 September 2020.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The Cure Italy Decree introduces the following changes from a social security contributions (SSC) perspective:
 - ▶ The activities of the Italian SSC Authorities for the period 8 March 2020 to 31 May 2020 are suspended.
 - ▶ The validity of A1 certificates (issued according to art. 11 and 12 of EU regulation 883/2004) expiring in the period between 1 January 2020 and 31 July 2020, issued to cover working activities performed abroad (in one of the EEA countries) by assignees, is extended until the 31 July 2020.
 - ▶ Any changes in the work (in terms of percentage) performed by multistate workers (art. 13 of EU regulation 883/2004) in the EEA countries due to emergency and containment measures adopted by relevant authorities, does not affect the validity of already issued A1 certificates

Other major changes

- ▶ Several allowances have been introduced for categories of employees unable to work due to the lockdown:
 - ▶ Up to 9 weeks allowance for employees subject to working hours reduction.
 - ▶ Termination of employees is stopped for 60 days.
 - ▶ Additional parental leave for 15 days is introduced due to the closing of schools, alternatively a babysitting bonus can be applied for.
- ▶ The Government guarantees the loans that banks provide to companies (from 80% up to 100%). Interest rate on the Government-guaranteed loans varies between 0,2% and 1%.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ On 8 April 2020, the Italian Government passed the so called "liquidity" decree which provides new measures to support the companies:
 - ▶ For all the employers the withholding tax and social security deadline of 16 March 2020 is postponed to 16 April 2020;
 - ▶ For the employer who earned more than 50 mln of revenues in 2019 and suffered a drop in turnover in March and April 2020 (higher than 50% of the amount of revenues of March and April 2019), payments related to withholding tax and social security due in April and May are postponed to 31 May 2020;
 - ▶ For the employer who earned less than 50 mln of revenues in 2019 and suffered a drop in turnover in March and April 2020 (higher than 33% of the amount of revenues of March and April 2019) payments related to withholding tax and social security due in April and May are postponed to 31 May 2020.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Advanced tax payments for TY2020 which are usually equal to 100% of prior year tax liability can be reduced to 80%.

Social Security changes

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Due date to file Japanese tax returns, assets reports and payment due date by payment slip will be extended to 15 April 2021. For tax payment made by direct debit, payment due date will be extended to 31 May 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ Currently Japan has restricted entry to the countries which are shown in the Ministry of Justice site.
- ▶ Travelers entering Japan from all the countries (regardless of nationality) will be asked to undergo a two week quarantine at a designated location.
- ▶ If those have travel history to high risk country within 14 days prior to the entry, are subject to conducting of PCR tests for the time being.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No Tax update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Effective 1 January 2021, Individual income tax rates revert back to 30% from 25%, and income tax bands with tax rates of 15% and 20% are deleted.
- ▶ Contributions by individuals to a Home Ownership Saving Plan (HOSP) do not qualify as an allowable deduction when determining the taxable employment income from 1 January 2021.
- ▶ There is a proposal in the 2021 Finance Bill to extend the scope of insurance relief to contributions made to the National Hospital Insurance Fund. Should this be enacted, it will take effect on 1 January 2022.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The law allows for application of extension but this is subject to approval by the Commissioner.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The due date for filing Korean tax returns and paying Korea income and local income taxes is 31 May of the following year. There are no extensions allowed.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ As of 20 July 2020, all new entrants (excluding Korean citizens) departing from Uzbekistan, the Philippines, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Bangladesh require a negative PCR COVID-19 test certificate issued by designated hospitals approved by the overseas Korean Consulate. Visa restrictions have been imposed on nationals of high-risk countries (inclusive of the above mentioned six countries).
- ▶ Applications submitted by Japanese nationals that have not already been processed are canceled, and applicants will need to submit a new application.
- ▶ The visa-free entry and visa waiver program have been suspended for multiple nationalities. This does not apply to citizens of the US, the UK, Mexico, Ireland and Slovenia.

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Payroll compliance changes

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Other major changes

- ▶ Effective 08 January 2021, all foreigners who plan to enter Korea by air are subject to the submission of a negative PCR test certificate. Korean nationals who are departing from UK or South Africa are also subject to the same. Those who are subject to this requirement must get tested for PCR, obtain a negative test certificate within 72 hours (48 hours if departing from the restricted countries such as the United Kingdom or South Africa) prior to the departure date and present it to the immigration officer at the airport before boarding.
- ▶ The test certificate must be in Korean or English. If not, an entrant must submit the original test certificate with a Korean or English translation and a certificate of translation. If an entrant fails to obtain a valid negative PCR test certificate (example: test certificate that was not issued within 48 or 72 hours prior to the departure date), their entry to Korea will be barred.

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- ▶ Effective 24 February 2021, all entrants of all nationalities, including South Korea, are subject to undergo three PCR tests in order to enter and stay in South Korea. The first test within 72 hours before departure, the second test within one day of arrival and the third test within the 14 days of mandatory self-isolation period.
- ▶ Self-Isolation exemption remains suspended for all countries (86) affected by the COVID-19 virus variants from the UK (as of 07 January 2021); exceptions may apply depending on the purpose of entry to Korea and compliance with other entry requirements.
- ▶ If entrants fail to obtain a negative PCR test result within 72 hours prior to departure, they will not be allowed to board a flight bound to Korea.

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- ▶ If one fails to obtain a negative PCR test result(s) within 14 days of mandatory self-isolation period, they will not be released from the quarantine facilities (the expense will be charged).
- ▶ Suspension on visa waiver program for 56 countries remains in effect (as of 13 April 2020).
- ▶ All Chinese nationals whose passports were issued in Hubei province and all foreigners who have traveled to Hubei in the past 14 days are barred from entry into South Korea.
- ▶ Visa issuance for foreigners from mainland China has been restricted.
- ▶ Visa-free-policy for Chinese nationals for transit South Korea has been suspended.

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- ▶ The Special Entry Procedure will apply to all travelers entering South Korea from 22 March 2021. All entrants will be required to get fever checks, submit papers on their health conditions and provide a phone number and residence address to the health authorities at the airports. They will also be required to download a self-diagnosis smartphone app to submit self-diagnosis results for 14 days and to be placed under intensive care if they show symptoms.
- ▶ The visa waiver program for Japan nationals is suspended.
- ▶ In addition, all travelers arriving from Europe will be subject to testing for COVID-19 and will have to wait at the facilities until the test results are available. This may take one day. Regardless, all Koreans and long term stay foreign nationals arriving from Europe will be required to self-quarantine at their homes or at state-run

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facilities for 14 days thereafter. Short-term travelers will come under 'active' monitoring through a mobile application, with authorities checking on their health condition by phone on a daily basis.

- ▶ Any permits (short term or long term) already issued to Japan nationals are no longer valid except for alien registration or residential card holders. Visa issuance for foreigners from Japan requires documents and health check declaration.
- ▶ The on-going visa application process for Japanese are held or canceled. Thus new application is required.
- ▶ Effective from 13 April 2020, any short term visit visa (C-3) issued on or prior to 5 April 2020 is no longer valid.
- ▶ If it was issued but yet to enter Korea, the assignee should process for new application.

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- ▶ Confirmation of health check from local hospital is required as a mandatory and additional document.
- ▶ Interview with each applicant is required so the submission by third person is not allowed.
- ▶ Depending on the cases, the consulate officer may request additional documents to prove the urgency and necessity of the business travel.
- ▶ The application fee for re-applying would be exempted.
- ▶ If the assignee has already entered with this visa and is currently in Korea, the assignee can stay until the visa expiry date.
- ▶ Effective 13 April 2020, suspension of visa-free entry and visa waiver program is applied to all of those countries who ban Korean nationals. Visa-free entry and visa waiver program are still valid for the below nationals: United States, United Kingdom, Mexico, Ireland, and Slovenia.

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Other major changes

- ▶ Countries subject to reinforced visa screening due to COVID-19 as of 23 April 2021: Philippines, United Kingdom, South Africa, France, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. However, certain work permits may still be applicable depending on the officer's discretion.
- ▶ Countries subject to reinforced visa screening due to COVID-19 as of 26 July 2021 are Philippines, South Africa, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, United Kingdom and Myanmar.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The annual filing deadline for 2020 was extended until 1 July 2021 for individuals who have mandatory filing requirements.
- ▶ The advance payment of personal income tax for self-employed individuals has been cancelled.
- ▶ The presumed income of board members has been cancelled.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The annual 2020 filing deadline is 01 May 2021 with no extensions.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No Social Security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Ultimate filing deadline for 2019 income tax returns has been extended from 31 December 2019 to 31 March 2021.
- ▶ Filing deadline for 2020 income tax returns has been extended from 31 March 2021 until 30 June 2021. The extended filing deadline has also been extended from 30 June 2021 to 31 December 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Agreement with France to disregard home working activity to determine applicable social security legislation, has been extended until 15 November 2021.

Other major changes

- ▶ Agreement with Belgium to disregard home working activity to allocate taxation right to Belgium extended until 30 September.
- ▶ Agreement with France to disregard home working activity to allocate taxation right to France extended until 30 September.
- ▶ Agreement with Germany to disregard home working activity to allocate taxation right to Germany, has been extended until 31 December 2021.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Extended deadline to submit Monthly Tax Deduction (MTD) data and make MTD/CP38 instalment payment for March 2020 and April 2020: 31 May 2020.
- ▶ Extended deadline to remit contributions to the Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) for the months from April 2020 to September 2020: Last day of the immediate following month (instead of the original deadline of 15th day of the immediate following month).
- ▶ Extended deadline to remit contributions to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for the months of March 2020 to July 2020, from the 15th to the 30th of the respective month.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Two month extended grace period for individuals to electronically file their 2019 income tax returns. This implies that the due date to file Malaysian tax return has been extended to 30 June 2020 (for individuals without business income) and to 31 August 2020 (for individuals with business income).
- ▶ In view of Movement Control Order (MCO) 2.0, from 13 January 2021 to 4 March 2021, there is no extended grace period to file 2020 income tax returns or defer tax payments. However, the affected taxpayers can apply for an extension of time at least 30 days before the filing/payment deadline for the approval to be considered, based on the merits of each case, by the respective tax office branch. En bloc application is allowed.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The minimum Employees Provident Fund (EPF) contribution by employees will be reduced by 4% from 11% to 7%, with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020. From 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, the minimum EPF contribution by employees is reduced by 2% from 11% to 9%.
- ▶ EPF introduced the i-Lestari facility from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 to provide financial relief to members whose income is affected by COVID-19. Permitted withdrawal ranges from RM50 to RM500 a month.
- ▶ EPF also introduced the i-Sinar facility from January 2021 whereby members whose income is affected by COVID-19 can withdraw up to RM60,000 (cannot be taken in one lump sum) over a maximum of six months.

Other major changes

- ▶ Restriction of MCO throughout Malaysia from 18 March 2020 to 12 May 2020 which includes the following measures:
 - ▶ Prohibition on Malaysian citizens and permanent residents from traveling abroad. Malaysian citizens and permanent residents returning from overseas are required to undergo health check and 14 days self-quarantine.
 - ▶ Prohibition on entry of tourists and foreign visitors into Malaysia.
- ▶ Conditional MCO declared from 4 May 2020 to 09 June 2020 to ease restrictions for business operations.
- ▶ Recovery MCO was introduced from 10 June 2020 to 31 August 2020 with more lenient restrictions and interstate travels permitted. Prohibition on international travels remains.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Submission of notification of commencement/cessation from employment to the Malaysian Inland Revenue Board (i.e., Forms CP22, CP22A, CP22B and CP21) due during the Movement Control Order (MCO) from 18 March 2020 to 28 April 2020 can be done beginning 29 April 2020.
- ▶ New prescribed forms for notification of commencement/cessation of employees were introduced from 1 January 2021. Additionally, notification of cessation of employment was also extended to include death of an employee. From 04 June 2021 to 31 December 2021, submission via email is allowed in view of the COVID-19 situation which is yet to improve.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Taxpayers who were required to submit documents to the Malaysian Inland Revenue Board (MIRB), between 18 March 2020 and 15 May 2020 for tax audit or investigation during the MCO restrictions, need to respond to any MIRB letters within the same period by 31 May 2020.
- ▶ In view of the extended MCO 3.0, two months extended grace period is granted to individuals with business income to file their 2020 income tax returns. This implies that the due date to file their Malaysian tax return has been extended to 31 August 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The Social Security Organization (SOCSO) introduced an Immediate Financial Assistance of RM600 per month for employees who were required to go on unpaid leave due to COVID-19. Application is required.
- ▶ There is an option to withdraw RM500 per month from EPF for members aged below 55 years from 1 April 2020 for a year. Application is required.
- ▶ Social Security Organization (SOCSO) has also introduced the Wage Subsidy Programme (WSP), which is an extension of ERP to enable employers to retain employees.
- ▶ Under WSP 1.0 (1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020), RM600 to RM1,200 wage subsidy per employee per month for up to six months were given to up to 200 employees per company if conditions are met.

Other major changes

- ▶ Recovery MCO was extended to 31 December 2020 and further extended to 31 March 2021.
- ▶ Variations of MCO restrictions were re-imposed from 13 January 2021 until 18 February 2021 across several states. Subsequent extension across selected states were imposed until 4 March 2021, then until 28 June 2021 and now until advised otherwise when the number of new daily COVID-19 cases dip below 4,000 and 10% of the population has been vaccinated.

Payroll compliance changes

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Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ Under WSP 2.0 (1 October 2020 to 31 December 2020), the subsidy period was extended by three months for existing recipients. Meanwhile, a subsidy of six months were given to new applicants.
- ▶ Under WSP 3.0 (1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021), RM600 wage subsidy per employee per month was initially extended for tourism and retail sectors only for up to 500 employees per company. However, WSP 3.0 is now enhanced to cover all employers in all sectors operating in the Movement Control Order (MCO) states for one month in 2021.
- ▶ Under WSP 3.0 PEMERKASA (1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021), business that are closed during the MCO and are existing WSP recipients will receive three additional months of subsidy. New applicants are entitled to three months subsidy.

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Other major changes

- ▶ Under WSP 3.0 PEMERKASA+ (1 June 2021 to 31 July 2021), existing WSP recipients in all sectors will receive additional one month subsidy. New applicants are entitled to one month subsidy.
- ▶ Under WSP 4.0, eligible employers will receive a wage subsidy of RM 600 per employee, subject to a maximum of 500 employees per employer. This applies to all employees, including those earning more than RM 4,000. WSP 4.0 applies for up to two months for all sectors in the second phase of the National Recovery Plan (NRP); and an additional two months for all sectors categorized as 'negative' in the third phase (i.e., sectors that are not permitted to operate in Phase 3) of the NRP.

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Other major changes

- ▶ EPF further introduced the i-Citra facility from 16 July 2021 whereby members whose income is affected by COVID-19 can withdraw up to RM 5,000 over a maximum of five months with a fixed monthly payment of RM 1,000 subject to a minimum savings balance of RM 50.
- ▶ EPF further introduced the i-Citra withdrawal from 12 July 2021 for members below age of 55 years to withdraw up to RM 5,000, payable for a period of up to five months at RM 1,000 per month subject to savings balance. Application is required.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Labor Law in force states that in the case of a Health Contingency with Activities Suspension Declaration by the competent authority of the Federal Government, it would be a cause for the suspension of the effects of labor relations, in this case, employers will be obliged to pay a compensation to the worker equivalent to a one minimum wage, for each day the suspension lasts, not exceeding one month.
- ▶ Up to date, Health Authority in Mexico has not issued the Health Contingency with Activities Suspension Declaration.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Up to date, Federal Government has not announce any Tax Contingency Plan derived from COVID-19.
- ▶ No tax extensions have been announced yet, Federal Tax payments (Income Tax, VAT, Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social - STPS), remain the same due date, the same for the annual tax return corporate and individual value date is until 31 March 2020 and 30 April 2020.
- ▶ No tax incentives have been announced yet, in order to boost the economy during this COVID-19 crisis.
- ▶ As of 25 September 2020, the Federal Government has not announce any Tax Contingency Plan derived from COVID-19, the afore mentioned implies the following:
 - ▶ Tax extension in the terms of tax obligations for some months from March 2020 has been announced yet, Federal Tax payments (IT, VAT, STPS)

Social Security changes

- ▶ Up to date, no contingency COVID-19 actions in Social Security have been announced yet for employees and employers.

Other major changes

- ▶ Labor Law in force states that in the case of a Health Contingency with Activities Suspension Declaration by the competent authority of the Federal Government, it would be a cause for the suspension of the effects of labor relations, in this case, employers will be obliged to pay a compensation to the worker equivalent to a one minimum wage, for each day the suspension lasts, not exceeding one month.
- ▶ Up to date, Health Authority in Mexico has not issued the Health Contingency with Activities Suspension Declaration.
- ▶ Payroll local tax has been deferred or direct discounts has been applied up to 100% depending on the number of employees and State.
- ▶ Some states in Mexico consider up to 100% of the Local Tax as creditable. Also, companies may ask for a refund as governmental subsidy

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Suspension of terms and deadlines for the practice of actions and diligences in the administrative procedures that are developed before the dependencies for an specific period between March and August 2020

Social Security changes

Other major changes

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The Government has issued Stimulus package for protecting public health, retaining workplaces and stimulating the economy during COVID-19 Pandemic.
 - ▶ Social health insurance: Social insurance contribution by employers and by employees of Mongolian citizen who work at legal entities, which protect job of its employees despite decrease in their revenues due to the impact of COVID-19, will be exempt from payments of such contribution for period of 6 months (from 1 April 2020 to 1 October 2020).
 - ▶ Personal income tax: Personal income tax exemption will apply on salaries, wages, bonuses, incentives and similar employment remuneration earned by Mongolian nationals from 1 April 2020 to 1 October 2020. No exemption is applicable from 01 July 2021.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ According to the law issued in connection with COVID-19 pandemic, penalties and late payment interest will be waived off if taxpayer fails to pay taxes during 1 February 2020 to 1 September 2020.
- ▶ No exemption is applicable from 01 July 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ According to the law issued in connection with COVID-19 Pandemic, if employer has reported Social and health insurance during 1 February 2020 to 1 April 2020 but fails to pay the amount, no penalty or late payment interest will be imposed.
- ▶ No exemption is applicable from 01 July 2021.

Other major changes

- ▶ Until 31 July 2020, Mongolia has suspended all international travels.
- ▶ If an employee, through no fault of their own, cannot be transferred to another job during a period of idle time with respect to the employer's business, he shall receive compensation in an amount specified in the applicable collective agreement (shall not be less than 60% of his/her base salary).
- ▶ No exemption is applicable from 01 July 2021.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No tax compliance update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No Social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The provisional tax threshold, which determines the requirement to pre-pay taxes, has been raised from NZD 2,500 Residual Income Tax to NZD 5,000. The change applies from the 2020-21 income year and is expected to result in 95,000 fewer taxpayers needing to pre-pay their taxes.
- ▶ Inland Revenue has clarified that employers can provide employees with NZD 15 a week tax free allowance for business related costs during the Covid-19 restrictions, and can reimburse employees up to NZD 400 for business-related furniture, on a tax-exempt basis. This is a temporary determination, applying to payments made from 17 March 2020 to 17 March 2021 (extended from the originally announced expiry date of 17 September 2020). A further extension announced in February 2021 extends this position for payments made from 18 March 2021 to 30 September 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ Current COVID-19 financial support is available at all COVID-19 Alert Levels (Alert Levels 1 to 4) in retaining workplaces and stimulating the economy during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- ▶ Short-term absence payment - from 9 February 2021, businesses and the self-employed can apply for a one-off payment of NZD 350 per employee required to isolate while awaiting a COVID-19 test if the employee cannot work from home. Employers can apply once in any thirty-day period (unless the worker is required to re-test) per eligible worker.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

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Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ Leave support scheme - provides a two week lump sum payment equivalent to the wage subsidy for eligible workers identified as someone who has (or may have) been in contact with someone with COVID-19 and must self-isolate for a period. For example, close or casual contacts who

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Other major changes

- ▶ A COVID-19 Income Relief Payment providing up to 12 weeks of financial support to New Zealand residents and citizens was available to those who lost their job or business due to COVID-19. Eligible applicants were able to receive a weekly, tax free sum for each week between 8 June and 13 November 2020 dependent on working hours (NZD 490 per week for a full-time worker, or NZD 250 per week for a part-time worker). This scheme has now lapsed.
- ▶ Inland Revenue has released guidance confirming that individuals stranded in New Zealand will not necessarily trigger New Zealand tax residency under domestic day-count rules, provided they leave the country within a reasonable time after they are no longer practically restricted in travelling.

- who have been told to self-isolate by a health official through the contact tracing process. The worker must also be unable to work from home. The scheme has been extensively modified since it was first introduced in 2020.
- ▶ At Alert Levels 2, 3 and 4:
 - ▶ Resurgence support payment - enacted 18 February 2021 - in the case of Alert Level two (or above) anywhere in New Zealand lasting at least seven days, businesses anywhere in New Zealand that incur a 30% or greater revenue drop in a seven day period (compared to a typical seven day period in the six weeks prior to the increase from Alert Level 1) as a result of the Alert Level escalation, may be eligible for a one-off payment of NZD 1,500 plus NZD 400 per employee (up to 50 FTEs) - this means the maximum claim is NZD 21,500.

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Additionally, businesses cannot make a claim that is greater than four times their revenue decline amount. The business must also be considered viable and ongoing, and must have been in business for at least six months. Certain businesses (e.g., those with seasonal income) have altered requirements. The payment must be used to cover business expenses such as wages and fixed costs.

- ▶ At Alert Levels 3 and 4:
 - ▶ Wage subsidy support - in the event of an escalation to Alert Level three or four anywhere in New Zealand lasting for at least seven days, the wage subsidy will become available to eligible businesses impacted by the escalation in Alert Level. Support will be provided in two-weekly payments and total support will match the duration at Alert Level three or four rounded to the nearest fortnight.

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Payment rates are NZD 585.80 per week for each fulltime employee (NZD 350 per week for each part-time employee). Businesses must have suffered a 40% reduction in revenue, measured against typical fortnightly revenue in the six weeks prior to the Alert Level escalation. Other eligibility criteria and terms and conditions also apply.

- ▶ Expired wage subsidy support
 - ▶ Initial 12 week wage subsidy scheme - introduced on 17 March 2020, applications closed on 9 June 2020.
 - ▶ Extended eight week wage subsidy scheme - open from 10 June 2020 until 1 September 2020.
 - ▶ Two week resurgence wage subsidy - open from 21 August 2020 until 3 September 2020.

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- ▶ All of the above expired wage subsidies provided a lump sum payment of NZD 585 per week for full-time employees and NZD 350 per week for part-time employees. The percentage decline in revenue requirement differed under each scheme and other eligibility criteria also applied. For further details on these schemes, please contact the New Zealand Tax Policy team: Sarah-Jane.leslie@nz.ey.com or Daniel.doughty@nz.ey.com.

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Payroll compliance changes

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Other major changes

- ▶ Tax exemption for temporary accommodation provided to an employee: Regulations which came into force on 22 April 2021 result in the value of temporary (\leq three months) accommodation provided to an employee to enable them to isolate due to the risk of the outbreak or spread of COVID-19 not being subject to tax as employment income. The temporary accommodation must be provided from 22 April 2021 to 30 June 2022 and other criteria also apply.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The enforcement fines for missing salary reporting is active again and imposed from the a-melding for October 2020, with a submission deadline 5 November 2020, if you fail to submit the a-melding within relevant deadlines or submit it with errors.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ There are no suggested extensions for the reporting deadlines in 2021 due to COVID-19. However, COVID-19 regulations still apply for taxable benefits, where applicable.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The deadline for the second payment period of employer's national insurance contribution was postponed from 15 May 2020 to 17 August 2020.
- ▶ The deadline for the payment for the third payment period was postponed from 15 July 2020 to 15 October 2020. The fourth period was not changed and was 15 September 2020.
- ▶ The employer's national insurance contribution was reduced by 4% points in May and June 2020, from 14,1% to 10,1%. Employers do not have to change the way they report their employer's national insurance contribution in the a-melding. Continue to report the basis for the employer's national insurance contribution as usual, and calculate the employer's national insurance contribution using the normal rates.
- ▶ There are no suggested exemptions from the normal regulations for social security and employee social security for 2021 due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ Due to COVID-19, many Norwegian employees on a work stay abroad have returned temporarily to Norway or have been temporarily prevented from returning to their work country due to travel restrictions. Many of these employees work from home offices in Norway during the temporary stay in Norway, instead of working from their permanent places of work abroad. For foreign employers with employees working from home offices in Norway due to COVID-19, there is given an exemption from the duty to provide salary information pursuant to the Tax Administration Act deduct withholding tax pursuant to the Tax Payment Act. The exemption covers employers that are not resident in Norway and under normal circumstances, do not operate their businesses in Norway.

Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ The exemption is valid from 13 March 2020 to the end of the 2021 income year. In the temporary provision, the Ministry of Finance has not given an exemption from the duty to provide information for the assessment of employer's national insurance contributions pursuant to section 23-4a of the National Insurance Act. Enterprises that are subject to this duty still have a duty to provide such information.
- ▶ Temporary lay offs after two days: 236/5000
- ▶ This benefit no longer applies. Wage compensation was a benefit to those who were laid off on 31 August 2020 or earlier. They were entitled to compensation for salary for the first 20 days they were laid off. The application deadline was 31 December 2020.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The Ministry of labour set some specifications related to the work like home office, vacation for the people older than 60 years and the ones that have more risk, reduction of working hours.
- ▶ Extends the validity of the work permits issued to foreign workers, which expired from 12 March 2020, until 7 April 2020.
- ▶ Also, filiation, filing, monitoring, marriage interviews, notification, issuance of work permit card will be suspended from 12 March 2020 to 7 April 2020.
- ▶ Starting Sep.2020 The National Migration Service authorizes the pre-registration of the Temporary Residence Permit for the employees of SEM companies.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Only for companies, the tax related to salaries remain the same.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Sick leaves is paid through social security to the people positive of COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ The Ministry of labor set some specifications related to the work like home office, vacation for the people older than 60 years and the ones that have more risk, reduction of working hours.
- ▶ Extends the validity of the work permits issued to foreign workers, which expired from 12 March 2020 until 7 April 2020.
- ▶ Also, filiation, filing, monitoring, marriage interviews, notification, issuance of work permit card will be suspended from 12 March 2020 to 7 April 2020.
- ▶ The National Migration Service reiterates to its users that permits or stays that have expired within the period from 13 March 2020 to 30 June 2021 do not generate fines due to expiration within that period.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The law establishes the moratorium on loans granted by banks, cooperatives and finance companies (private or public) until 31 December for natural and legal persons affected by the economic crisis given the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No payroll compliance change update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Changes in tax compliance liabilities due to COVID-19:
 - ▶ The monthly obligations for January for entities and individuals whose incomes do not exceed 2300 Unidad Impositiva Tributaria (UIT for 2021 is of 4400 PEN) and who reside in the cities catalogued as extreme level alert or very high level alert, are delayed. For mobility services, this includes payroll monthly presentation and payment for companies and monthly tax returns for individuals.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other major change update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19. The original filing deadline set out by the tax authorities are not extended.
 - ▶ E-Filing of 1601C for eFPS filers (for the month of June 2020)
 - ▶ Group E - 11 July 2020
 - ▶ Group D - 12 July 2020
 - ▶ Group C - 13 July 2020
 - ▶ Group B - 14 July 2020
 - ▶ Group A - 15 July 2020
 - ▶ E-Payment/remittance of 1601C for eFPS filers (for the month of June 2020) is 15 July 2020.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) 120-2020 to further clarify the exemption from Income Tax of the retirement benefits received by employees of private firms from 05 June 2020 to 31 December 2020 pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 11494 (Bayanihan to Recover as One Act), as implemented under Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 29-2020, mentioned in the earlier trackers.
- ▶ A duly registered retirement plan, as contemplated under RR No. 29-2020, is when it has been issued as a Certificate of Qualification as a Reasonable Employees' Retirement Benefit Plan. The said certificate is issued by the BIR upon satisfaction of the conditions and prescribed requirements.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The Social Security System (SSS) issued Circular No. 2020-033b to provide the revised schedule of SSS contributions effective January 2021.
- ▶ Pursuant to the enactment of Republic Act No. 11199, otherwise known as the Social Security Act of 2018, which includes a provision that increases the Social Security contribution rate to 13%, the minimum Monthly Salary Credit (MSC) to 3,000 PHP, and the maximum MSC to 25,000 PHP effective year 2021, this new schedule of contributions of employers and employees issued shall be in effect for the applicable month of January 2021 as per Social Security Commission (SSC) Resolution No. 709-s.2020 dated 17 December 2020.

Other major changes

- ▶ The Bureau of Immigration (BI) is implementing an extended travel ban on travelers coming from seven countries (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Oman and UAE) until 15 June 2021 due to emerging COVID-19 variants.
- ▶ Those who have a travel history from said countries within the last 14 days from the date of their arrival in the Philippines, will also be prohibited from entering the country. However, those who will only be transiting in the region, meaning they will not exit the airport and will not be cleared by immigration authorities there, and will only be landing for a layover, may be allowed to enter the Philippines.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Only the amount received covered by the registered retirement plan will be exempted from Income Tax, provided that the retirement and the receipt of the retirement benefits are within the covered period. The amount in excess of what is within the retirement plan shall be taxable.
- ▶ Under Sec. 32 (B) (6) of the Tax Code, as amended, retirement benefits received under RA No. 7641(Retirement Pay Law) are not to be included in the gross income of the recipient and are, therefore, tax exempted. The said law provided that, "In the absence of a retirement plan or agreement providing for retirement benefits of employees in the establishment, an employee upon reaching the age of 60 years or more, but not beyond 65 years which is hereby declared the compulsory retirement age, who has served at least five years in the said establishment, may retire."

Social Security changes

- ▶ Senate Bill No. 2027, recently approved on 23 February 2021, gave the President the power to suspend the scheduled increase in the contribution rate for six months and extend it for another six months during the state of national emergency or calamity as the mandated SSS contribution increase is not timely because of the continuing hardship brought about by COVID-19 to the people and to the business sector.
- ▶ For calendar year 2021, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation will still collect premiums from Direct Contributors using the 3% instead of the 3.5% contributions rate; and the P 60,000 instead of the P 70,000 ceiling in CY 2020. This deferment of the implementation of the scheduled premium adjustment for CY 2021 is pursuant to the effort of easing the burden on many Filipinos being affected by the pandemic.

Other major changes

- ▶ BI Port Operations Division (POD) reiterated that foreign nationals entering the country for tourism purposes are still not allowed. Only Filipinos, Balikbayans, and foreign nationals with valid and existing visas who are not coming from the seven restricted countries may be allowed to enter the Philippines.
- ▶ Those who will be entering under a 9(a) Temporary Visitors' Visa or a Special Resident Retirees Visa would need to present an entry exemption document to be allowed to enter.
- ▶ The Bureau of Immigration (BI) announced that aliens holding the Special Resident Retiree's Visa (SRRV) issued by the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) are now allowed to enter the country.

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Other major changes

- ▶ RR No. 29-2020 requires the submission of the list of recipients of retirement benefits and other income payments exempted from Income Tax paid by employers from 05 June to 31 December 2020. The employees included in the said list are still to be included in the Annual Alphabetical List of Employees required to be submitted on or before 31 January of each year since the Annual Alphabetical List reflects the income received by the said employees for the year, inclusive of retirement benefits and other income payments.
- ▶ BIR issued RMC No. 136-2020 to clarify the suspension of the statute of limitation provided under Revenue Regulations No. 11-2020, which started from 16 March 2020, when the state of emergency was declared due to COVID-19 virus, until 60 days after the lifting of the quarantine.
- ▶ With such suspension, the counting of the three-year prescriptive period to assess and the five-year period to collect

- ▶ In an advisory, BI said that following the most recent IATF-MEID, upon recommendation of the Department of Tourism (DOT), those holding SRRVs are now allowed to enter the country without an entry exemption document.
- ▶ Those holding tourist visas, are still not permitted to enter the country, unless authorized by the country's foreign posts abroad through an entry exemption document.
- ▶ BI Port Operations Division likewise added that all arriving passengers are still required to present their 10-day quarantine hotel or facility booking, except for those who have been fully vaccinated in the Philippines, who would only need to present a seven day booking.

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Other major changes

shall exclude the number of days covered by the period of suspension, which is a total of 137 days.

- ▶ BIR issued RMC No. 16-2021 to provide guidelines in the submission of list of recipients of income exempt from Income Tax pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 11494 (Bayanihan to Recover as One Act), as implemented under Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 29-2020.
- ▶ The one-time list should have been submitted not later than 10 February 2021. For the submission of quarterly report by concerned employers, the deadline is 30 days after the close of all calendar quarters of 2021. All employees hired during the year 2021, regardless if the said employee has previous employer or not, shall be included in the list. If they have previous employer, the information required in the prescribed template can be determined from BIR Form 2316 issued by his previous employer.

- ▶ Under Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) Resolution No.119 dated 03 June 2021, notwithstanding the provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, the inbound international travel to any port of the Philippines of all fully vaccinated individuals who have been vaccinated in the Philippines, shall be governed by certain guidelines.
- ▶ An individual shall be considered as having been fully vaccinated for COVID-19:
 - ▶ ≥ two weeks after having received the second dose in a two-dose series
 - ▶ ≥ two weeks after having received a single-dose vaccine

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Other major changes

- ▶ The BIR has issued RMC 41-2021 in order to provide relief to taxpayers, in relation to the current surge in COVID-19 cases that is affecting the entire country which has prompted establishments to operate at half their manpower capacity. Thus, filing of returns as well as payment of taxes due, that fall within the period 22 March 2021 to 30 April 2021, may be made anywhere even outside the jurisdiction of the Revenue District Office where they are registered.
- ▶ Taxpayers who are not mandated to use the eFPS and eBIR Forms System are encouraged to electronically file their returns through eBIR Forms Facility and pay the corresponding taxes due thereon through any ePayment channels.

- ▶ Vaccines administered to the individual are included either in the Philippine Food and Drug Administration Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) List or through a Compassionate Special Permit (CSP).
- ▶ A fully vaccinated individual must carry his or her vaccination card, which must be verified prior to departure, as far as practicable. This document must be presented to the dedicated Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) representative for re-verification at the Department of Transportation One-Stop-Shop (OSS) upon arrival in the Philippines.
- ▶ All arriving fully vaccinated individuals shall be required to undergo a seven day facility-based quarantine upon arrival, with the day of arrival being the first day.

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Tax compliance changes

- ▶ RMC No. 72-2021 [Availability of BIR Single Hotline Number and use of Chatbot]: This Circular is issued to announce the availability of the BIR Customer Assistance Division Single Hotline No. (02) 8538-3200 and the use of Chatbot, named REVIE, to assist taxpayers with their general inquiries on tax related matters. Tax inquiries may also be sent via e-mail at contact_us@bir.gov.ph.
- ▶ REVIE is the BIR's Digital Assistant, an artificial intelligence, that can be accessed 24/7 from the home page of the BIR Website (www.bir.gov.ph.) Questions about taxpayers' registration requirements (how to get a TIN, etc.), eServices, BIR Forms, zonal values, among others, including TIN Verification, can be asked from REVIE.

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ The BOQ shall ensure strict symptom monitoring while in the facility quarantine for seven days. Thereafter, the individual is enjoined to self-monitor for any symptoms.
- ▶ The individual shall undergo Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing only when COVID-19 symptoms manifest within the duration of the seven day facility-based quarantine.
- ▶ Upon completion of the seven day facility-based quarantine, the BOQ shall issue a Quarantine Certificate indicating therein the individual's vaccination status.

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- ▶ Taxpayers using the facility will also have the option to chat with a live agent in case they need clarifications on the answers provided by REVIE.
- ▶ The provision of a single hotline number for the BIR and use of Chatbot are part of the Lease of Contact Center Solution with Chat Module Project undertaken by the BIR under its Digital Transformation Program.
- ▶ By providing a single hotline number and a Chatbot, taxpayers and other stakeholders can easily access updated tax information at the comfort of their own homes or offices, especially during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ The Department of Health, Department of Finance, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Foreign Affairs, and the National Economic and Development Authority are hereby directed to convene and provide recommendations for further relaxing testing and quarantine protocols for certain classes of travelers.

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- ▶ The Bureau of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 91-2021 dated 03 August 2021 extending the deadline of filing of returns and payment of corresponding taxes due thereon, and submission of reports and attachments, falling within the period from 06 August 2021 to 20 August 2021 for taxpayers under ECQ and MECQ. The deadline is extended for a period of 15 calendar days from 20 August 2021. If the ECQ or MECQ is extended, the deadline shall also be extended by 15 calendar days from the lifting of ECQ or MECQ.

- ▶ With reference to the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 14 May 2021 and 31 May 2021 imposing travel restrictions on travelers from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates, which exempts the entry of Filipinos from the foregoing countries who are returning as part of the repatriation programs of the government, and authorizes the IATF to provide for other reasonable exceptions to entry restrictions and protocols imposed thereto, the IATF hereby exempts non-Philippine government repatriation efforts. The following guidelines shall govern the implementation of such exemptions:

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- ▶ The Bureau of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 92-2021 dated 09 August 2021 to extend the deadline for the filing of position papers, replies, protests, documents and other similar letters and correspondences in relation to ongoing BIR audit due to the declaration of ECQ and MECQ in the NCR and other areas of the country.
- ▶ The Bureau of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 93-2021 dated 09 August 2021, to suspend the running of the statute of limitations on assessment and collection of taxes pursuant to Section 223 of the NIRC of 1997, as amended, due to the declaration of ECQ and MECQ in the NCR and other areas of the country (RMC No. 93-2021.pdf bir.gov.ph).

- ▶ In case of Philippine government-organized repatriation, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration shall conduct prior coordination with each other, and with the (DOH-BOQ), and its One-Stop Shop and Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, and the National Task Force Against COVID-19 Task Group for the Management of Returning Overseas Filipinos at least 48 hours prior to the departure from the country of origin.

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Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The Bureau of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 97-2021 dated 16 August 2021 to clarify the taxation of any income received by social media influencers.

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ In case of non-Philippine government repatriations, all Filipino repatriates from the countries with travel restrictions must present a negative RT-PCR result, with the test taken within 48 hours prior to boarding the aircraft or vessel. It shall be the responsibility of the airline or shipping line to check on this requirement. For purposes of documentation and monitoring, the copy of the negative RT-PCR result of the repatriate shall be submitted to the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) upon arrival in the port of entry in the Philippines. Prior approval from the BOQ for the entry of the flight or vessel carrying the Filipino repatriates is a prerequisite prior to its movement from point of origin.

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- ▶ For this purpose, the concerned local manning agency, in the case of seafarers; the Philippine recruitment agency, for land-based workers; or the sponsoring Philippine government agency, in case of other overseas Filipinos not covered in the foregoing shall submit the request for exemption to the DOH-BOQ indicating therein the flight and repatriate details. Said approval by DOH BOQ is equivalent to IATF's approval on the repatriation effort.

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Other major changes

- ▶ All repatriates from countries with travel restrictions in effect shall be placed on a strict 14-day facility-based quarantine from the date of arrival in the Philippines, with the date of arrival being the first day. The same protocols shall be applied to other countries which may be included in the travel restrictions, as determined by the IATF or the Office of the President.
- ▶ Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) Resolution No. 120 dated June 10, 2021 amends Paragraph B (2) of IATF Resolution No. 119 s.2021 issued on 03 June 2021.

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Other major changes

- ▶ Inter-Agency Effective 16 June 2021, and notwithstanding the provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, the inbound international travel to any port of the Philippines of all fully vaccinated individuals who have been vaccinated in the Philippines, shall be governed by certain guidelines.
- ▶ An individual shall be considered as having been fully vaccinated for COVID-19:
 - ▶ ≥ 2 weeks after having received the second dose in a 2-dose series, or
 - ▶ ≥ 2 weeks after having received a single-dose type of vaccine.

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- ▶ Vaccines administered to the individual are included either in the Philippine Food and Drug Administration Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) List or through a Compassionate Special Permit (CSP).
- ▶ A fully vaccinated individual must carry his or her vaccination card which must be verified prior to his/her departure from the country of origin prior to boarding, and a certification issued prior to his/her departure by (i.) the Department of Information and Communications Technology, or (ii.) the City Health Officer of the local government unit which administered the last dose necessary for full vaccination. This certification must be presented to the dedicated Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) representative for re-verification at the Department of Transportation One-Stop-Shop (OSS) upon arrival in the Philippines.

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Other major changes

- ▶ All arriving fully vaccinated individuals shall be required to undergo a seven (7) - day facility-based quarantine upon arrival, with the day of arrival being the first day.
- ▶ The BOQ shall ensure strict symptom monitoring while in the facility quarantine for seven (7) days. Thereafter, the individual is enjoined to self-monitor for any symptoms.
- ▶ The individual shall undergo Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing only when COVID-19 symptoms manifest within the duration of the seven (7) day facility-based quarantine.
- ▶ Upon completion of the seven (7)-day facility-based quarantine, the BOQ shall issue a Quarantine Certificate indicating therein the individual's vaccination status.

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- ▶ The Bureau of Immigration (BI) said on 08 June 2021 that it will continue to allow the departure of foreign nationals with approved immigrant and non-immigrant visas even if they have not yet been issued their alien certificate of registration identity card (ACR I-Card). The Bureau extended until 31 December this year, its policy temporarily allowing foreigners with approved and implemented visas to leave pending release of their ACR I-Card. In lieu of the ACR I-Card, the said departing aliens need only to present official receipts of the ACR I-Card waiver application fee and re entry permit (RP) or special return certificate (SRC).

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- ▶ The extension is due to the implementation of the community quarantine in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces and the relatively high number of COVID-19 cases in the country so as not to inconvenience foreigners who wish to leave the country during the pandemic.
- ▶ Immigration officers, upon presenting official receipts of fees paid by the alien, should ensure that the passenger has a valid visa implemented on his or her passport before clearing the latter for departure. The departing aliens should also safekeep their official receipts as the same shall serve as their ACR I-Card waiver which they would need to present upon their return to the country.

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- ▶ The payment of the ACR I-Card waiver application fees and corresponding ECC or RP/SRC fees are only allowed at the BI main office and authorized sub-port offices.
- ▶ In its Press Release dated 20 June 2021, the Bureau of Immigration (BI), in consideration of a recent IATF resolution, reminded passengers arriving from abroad who have been fully vaccinated in the Philippines that they still have to present a seven-day booking in a government-accredited quarantine facility upon their return to the country. This is in line with the recent IATF resolution.

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- ▶ Departing fully vaccinated passengers are advised to bring their vaccination cards when they travel as these will be presented to officials of the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) at the airport upon their return. These cards can be secured, before their departure, from the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) or municipal health officer of their local government unit.
- ▶ The new protocols for fully vaccinated passengers take effect on Tuesday, 15 June 2021. According to the IATF, a passenger is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after he or she has completed his second dose (or first dose for single-dose type) of a vaccine authorized for use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

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- ▶ Those not yet vaccinated, or those vaccinated abroad, will still be required to present a ten-day quarantine booking.
- ▶ BI Port Operations Division stated that measures against those who present fake quarantine bookings are still in place. If arriving aliens are found by the appropriate agencies to have faked their quarantine bookings, they may be referred back to the BI for initiation of deportation proceedings.

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- ▶ The Bureau of Immigration (BI) announced on 24 June 2021 that American citizens who are currently in the country and whose US passports have expired on or after 01 January 2020 can now use said passports to depart the Philippines. This is in response to a letter the BI received from the US embassy in Manila which informed the bureau about the plight of US citizens who were stranded in the Philippines due to the pandemic and who are unable to leave because their passports have expired.
- ▶ All BI personnel assigned in the different ports have been directed to allow the departure of passengers whose US passports are expired from 01 January last year and are expiring up to 31 December of this year. The use of said expired passports by departing US-bound passengers will only be allowed until 31 December 2021.

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- ▶ The BI also directed its tourist visa section and alien registration division to process all applications for updating of stay and emigration clearance certificates (ECC) of holders of expired US passports upon presentation of a confirmed ticket bound for the USA. This rule applies only to departing passengers. Those who are planning to remain in the Philippines or to convert their visas still need to present a valid passport.
- ▶ Passport services at the US embassy are still available and US citizens in the country are still encouraged to renew their passports prior to leaving whenever feasible.

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- ▶ On its 30 June 2021 press release, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) announced that it will continue to implement the ban on the entry of all passengers arriving from seven restricted countries (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Oman and UAE) until 15 July 2021.
- ▶ The existing guidelines governing the arrival of passengers from these seven countries shall still be observed. Foreigners arriving the said countries will be denied entry and immediately sent back to their port of origin. On the other hand, Filipinos arriving from these countries as part of repatriation efforts by the government and non-government sectors will be allowed entry. BI also reminded the airlines not to board passengers coming from the said region, as their infractions will be referred to the aviation authorities for the imposition of appropriate sanctions.

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- ▶ BI Port Operations Division (POD) clarified that the latest IATF resolution also allowed passengers who have been fully vaccinated to undergo a seven-day facility-based quarantine. Hence, they would need to present their seven-day booking, as well as proof of vaccination to the BI before clearance. They must likewise have come from countries tagged as green by the Department of Health. Those who have not been vaccinated will still undergo a 10-day facility-based quarantine. In the resolution, the IATF tasked the Bureau of Quarantine at the airport's One Stop Shop to verify vaccination records of arriving passengers.
- ▶ On its 02 July 2021 press release, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) clarified that fully vaccinated passengers must present documentary proof upon arrival in the country.

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- ▶ Those fully vaccinated in the Philippines must carry their vaccination card, which should be verified prior to their departure from the Philippines through the Certificate of Vaccination Record Portal of the Department of Information and Communications Technology or the City Health Officer of the local government unit which administered the full vaccination.
- ▶ For those vaccinated outside the Philippines, they may present their International Certificate of Vaccination, or have their documents validated through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO), as the case may be.
- ▶ Current restrictions allow the entry of Filipinos, balikbayans, and those with valid and existing visas from countries not part of the travel ban. Except for balikbayans, tourist visa holders are still not allowed to enter the country.

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- ▶ Those vaccinated outside the Philippines must also come from the list of 57 'green' jurisdictions to be able to undergo a seven-day facility-based quarantine only. These jurisdictions are Albania, American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Benin, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cayman Islands, Chad, China Mainland, Ivory Coast, Eswatini, Falkland Islands, French Polynesia, Gambia, Ghana, Greenland, Grenada, Hongkong, Iceland, Isle of Man, Israel, Laos, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Montserrat, Morocco, Mozambique, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Rwanda, Saba, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Singapore, Saint Eustatius, South Korea, Taiwan, Togo, Turks and Caicos Islands (UK), Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

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- ▶ Passengers fully vaccinated abroad who stayed exclusively in any of these 57 places within the past 14 days immediately preceding their arrival shall undergo a seven-day facility-based quarantine. Hence, they would only need to present a seven-day booking in a government-accredited quarantine hotel or facility during primary immigration inspection when they arrive in the country.
- ▶ They would also need to present said documents to the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) at the port's Department of Transportation One Stop Shop (OSS) after immigration clearance.
- ▶ Otherwise, other arriving passengers not fully vaccinated, not coming from the 57 territories, or who do not have the required documentary proof, will be required by the BI to present a 10-day facility-based quarantine booking.

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- ▶ BI Port Operations Division (POD) warned that foreign nationals who would not be able to present their quarantine bookings will be excluded for being improperly documented, while those who present fake bookings and are intercepted by the Department of Tourism and other OSS agencies may be referred back to the BI for the initiation of deportation proceedings.
- ▶ The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) Resolution No. 123-C dated 28 June 2021 approves the recommendation of the IATF Technical Working Group on the implementation of phased 'Green Lanes' for fully vaccinated individuals.

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- ▶ Effective 01 July 2021, and notwithstanding the provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended, the inbound international travel to any port of the Philippines of all individuals fully vaccinated in the Philippines regardless of travel history, and those vaccinated abroad who stayed exclusively in 'Green' jurisdictions in the past 14 days immediately preceding arrival, shall be governed by certain guidelines.

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- ▶ 'Green' jurisdictions are those classified by the Department of Health as 'Low Risk' jurisdictions based on disease incidence rate, as follows:
 - ▶ For populations greater than 100,000, the incidence rate (cumulative new cases over the past 28 days per 100,000 population) and new case trajectory (case trend for daily new cases over the past 28 days)
 - ▶ For populations less than 100,000, the COVID-19 case counts (cumulative new cases over the past 28 days) and new case trajectory are considered, as prescribed by its Technical Advisory Group

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- ▶ All arriving individuals fully vaccinated in the Philippines regardless of travel history, and those vaccinated abroad who stayed exclusively in 'Green' jurisdictions in the past 14 days immediately preceding arrival shall be required to undergo a seven-day facility-based quarantine upon arrival, with the date of arrival being the first day.
- ▶ The BOQ shall ensure strict symptom monitoring while in the facility quarantine for seven days. Thereafter, the individual is enjoined to monitor themselves for the next seven days for any symptoms.

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- ▶ For purposes of gathering local data on breakthrough infections, all arriving individuals qualified for a seven-day facility-based quarantine under the foregoing provisions shall undergo Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing on the fifth day of facility-based quarantine with day one being the date of arrival. The fifth-day testing requirement shall be subject to review after 30 days from implementation. Should the RT-PCR test yield a negative result, the individual shall complete the seven-day facility-based quarantine, but if found positive, he/she shall follow the prescribed isolation protocols. For this purpose, IATF Resolution No. 119 s.2021 is hereby amended accordingly.

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- ▶ Upon completion of the seven-day facility-based quarantine, the BOQ shall issue a Quarantine Certificate indicating therein the individual's vaccination status.
- ▶ All arriving fully vaccinated individuals not covered by the foregoing shall comply with the testing and quarantine protocols as prescribed under the pertinent provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended.

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- ▶ On its Press Release dated 20 June 2021, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) reminded passengers arriving from abroad who have been fully vaccinated in the Philippines that they still have to present a seven-day booking in a government-accredited quarantine facility upon their return to the country. Fully vaccinated passengers are not exempted from quarantine protocols. The recent IATF resolution clearly provides that all arriving individuals who are fully vaccinated in the country are required to undergo a seven-day facility-based quarantine upon arrival, with the day of arrival being the first day.

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- ▶ Departing fully vaccinated passengers should bring their vaccination cards as these will be presented to officials of the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) at the airport upon their return. Passengers are advised to secure, before their departure, from the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) or city/municipal health officer of their local government unit a certification that they have been fully vaccinated.
- ▶ The new protocols for fully vaccinated passengers take effect on 15 June 2021 as part of government efforts to gradually ease travel restrictions. According to the IATF, a passenger is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after he or she has completed his second dose (or first dose for single-dose type) of a vaccine that was issued authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

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- ▶ Those not yet vaccinated, or those vaccinated abroad, will still be required to present a 10-day quarantine booking.
- ▶ BI Port Operations Division stated that measures against those who present fake quarantine bookings are still in place. If arriving aliens are found by the appropriate agencies to have faked their quarantine bookings, they may be referred back to the BI for initiation of deportation proceedings.

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- ▶ On its 09 July 2021 press release, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) has given foreign nationals, whose visas here have expired during the pandemic, a grace period until 30 November 2021 this year to apply for renewal of their visas.
- ▶ For humanitarian reasons the BI is allowing aliens, whose converted visas expired from 16 March 2020 up to 04 July 2021, to file their applications for visa renewal or amendment up to the end of November 2021.
- ▶ The deadline is non-extendible and warned that aliens who fail to file their applications before 30 November 2021 could be subjected to deportation proceedings for illegally staying in the country.

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- ▶ In the same order, foreigners with expiring visas were also given a non-extendible grace period of six months from the expiry of their visas to file their applications for visa renewal or extension.
- ▶ The order applies to renewal or amendment of already converted visas, meaning those who have working, student, or resident visas here. Said grace period does not apply for tourists in the country.
- ▶ The order was in response to numerous requests from foreigners whose visas are expiring or about to expire, that they be given ample time or grace period to file their visa renewal applications.

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- ▶ It was learned that even the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) has requested the BI to consider the possibility of giving aliens who were stranded in the country due to the pandemic a grace period within which they may file their application for visa renewal or amendment.
- ▶ The BI stressed that the privilege can only be availed by aliens who have never left the country since the pandemic. Those whose visas have expired while they are abroad should refile their visa applications if they wish to reacquire said visas.
- ▶ BI also pledged that they will continue to study ways to assist stranded foreign nationals in the country in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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- ▶ On its press release dated 16 July 2021, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) reminded the traveling public that the ongoing travel restrictions on passengers coming from eight countries shall remain until 31 July 2021.
- ▶ The extension of the temporary travel ban for those coming from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Oman and the United Arab Emirates have been extended until the month's end. With the recent inclusion of Indonesia, the temporary ban now covers eight countries.
- ▶ An advisory from the BI states that those coming from the eight countries, as well as those with a travel history from said countries within the last 14 days from the date of arrival will not be allowed to enter the Philippines and will be returned to their port of origin immediately on the next available flight.

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- ▶ The BI clarified that transiting passengers are not included in the travel ban. Considered transiting are passengers who were there only for a layover and were not admitted by immigration authorities in the banned country.
- ▶ BI Port Operations Division (POD) added that the extended and expanded travel restrictions have been communicated to all airlines for their guidance. POD appreciates the assistance of the airlines in not boarding anyone coming from the eight countries, lest they be turned back which would be an added expense for the airlines. Excluded passengers, once denied entry by the BI, becomes the responsibility of the carrying airline who shall ensure that the passenger is boarded immediately on his or her outbound flight.

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- ▶ On its press release dated 14 July 2021, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) announced that the BI will be implementing a temporary ban for travelers from Indonesia including those with a travel history to Indonesia within the last 14 days before arriving in the Philippines.
- ▶ The travel ban is set to take effect by 12:01 AM of 16 July 2021 until 11:59 PM of 31 July 2021.
- ▶ Passengers already in transit from Indonesia who arrive before the implementation of the travel ban may be allowed to enter but will be subjected to a full 14-day facility-based quarantine by the appropriate government agency.
- ▶ The recent travel ban follows the surge of COVID-19 cases in Indonesia, reportedly caused by the highly contagious delta variant.

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- ▶ Under Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) Resolution No. 127-B dated 15 July 2021, the IATF listed the countries that have met the prescribed incidence rate and case trajectory, hence, shall be considered to be classified as 'green' countries under IATF Resolution No. 123-C (s. 2021).

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- ▶ The jurisdictions are Albania, American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Benin, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Cayman Islands, Chad, China Mainland, Comoros, Ivory Coast, Curacao, Dominica, Eswatini, Falkland Islands, French Polynesia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greenland, Grenada, Hongkong, Iceland, Isle of Man, Israel, Laos, Liechtenstein, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Montserrat, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Romania, Saba, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Singapore, Saint Eustatius, South Korea, Taiwan, Togo, Turks and Caicos Islands (UK) and Vietnam.

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- ▶ On 23 July 2021, the Bureau of Immigration announced that they will be implementing the most recent directive from Malacañang expanding the travel ban to the Philippines to include passengers coming from Malaysia and Thailand starting 25 July 2021 until 31 July 2021.
- ▶ These two countries are added to the eight existing countries temporarily prevented to enter the country, namely India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia.
- ▶ Foreigners arriving from said countries or with a travel history there within the last 14 days will be denied entry and will immediately be sent back to their ports of origin. On the other hand, Filipinos arriving from these countries as part of repatriation efforts by the government and non-government sectors will be allowed entry but will be subjected to set protocols by other government agencies.

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- ▶ BI clarified that those who are already in transit and will be arriving before 25 July 2021 will be allowed entry but will be required to undergo a strict 14-day facility-based quarantine.
- ▶ The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID), in its Resolution No. 128-A dated 22 July 2021, has approved revised rules for 'Green Lanes' that will apply to fully vaccinated international arriving passengers to the Philippines beginning 26 July 2021.
- ▶ International arriving passengers to the Philippines, regardless of point of entry, need to undergo only a seven day facility-based quarantine and Reverse Transcription - Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing on the fifth day, with the day of arrival being the first day, only if all the following conditions are met, subject to the definitions in this Resolution:

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- ▶ Their port of origin is a Green List jurisdiction.
- ▶ They stayed exclusively in Green List jurisdiction in the last 14 days prior to their arrival in the Philippines.
- ▶ They are fully vaccinated, whether in the Philippines or abroad.
- ▶ Their vaccination status can be independently verified by Philippine authorities as valid and authentic upon their arrival in the country.

- ▶ International arriving passengers to the Philippines, regardless of point of entry, shall not be qualified for the Green Lanes, and shall thus undergo a 10-day facility-based quarantine and a four-day home quarantine, including an RT-PCR test on the seventh day, if any of the following are present:

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- ▶ Their port of origin is not a Green List jurisdiction.
- ▶ They stayed outside a Green List jurisdiction at any time in the last 14 days before their arrival in the Philippines.
- ▶ They have not been fully vaccinated.
- ▶ Even if fully vaccinated, their vaccination status cannot be independently verified by Philippine authorities as valid or authentic upon their arrival in the country.
- ▶ The vaccines administered to the individual must be included in any of the following:
 - ▶ Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) List or Compassionate Special Permit (CSP) issued by the Philippine Food and Drug Administration

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- ▶ Emergency Use Listing of the World Health Organization
- ▶ For purposes of verification of vaccination status, any of the following shall be acceptable:
 - ▶ For Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their spouse, parents or children traveling with them: a Certification from the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in the country of origin
 - ▶ For Filipinos and foreigners fully vaccinated in the Philippines: either their LGU/hospital-issued vaccination cards (in original or hard copy form) or Local Government Unit (LGU)-issued Vaccine Certificate, provided these can be verified by border-control authorities, or BOQ-issued International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICV)

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- ▶ For Filipinos and foreigners fully vaccinated abroad: the vaccination certificate issued by the health authorities of their place of vaccination provided that such certificate can be independently verified by Philippine authorities as valid or authentic.

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- ▶ For those qualified for Green Lanes, the BOQ shall ensure strict symptom monitoring while in the facility quarantine for seven days. Even if the RT-PCR test yields a negative result, the individual shall still complete the seven-day facility-based quarantine, but if found positive, he/she shall follow the prescribed isolation protocols. Upon completion of such quarantine, the BOQ shall issue a Quarantine Certificate indicating therein the individual's vaccination status. The individual is thereafter enjoined to monitor themselves for the next seven days for any symptoms.
- ▶ The foregoing testing and quarantine protocols shall be subject to special protocols approved by the IATF or the Office of the President for certain classes of travelers or ports of origin.
- ▶ Effective 26 July 2021, this Resolution shall supersede Resolution No. 123-C (s.2021).

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- ▶ Under Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) Resolution No. 130-B dated 29 July 2021, the following countries/ jurisdictions/ territories shall be considered as 'Green' countries/ jurisdictions/ territories for the purpose of IATF Resolution No. 128-A (s.2021): Albania, American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bermuda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cayman Islands, Chad, China Mainland, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Dominica, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Falkland Islands, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Hong Kong, Hungary, Kosovo, Laos, Mali, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Montserrat, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria,

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North Macedonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Poland, Romania, Saba (Special Municipality of the Kingdom of Netherlands), Saint Barthelemy, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Singapore, Sint Eustatius, Slovakia, Taiwan and Togo.

- ▶ The IATF, in its IATF-MEID Resolution No. 130 dated 29 July 2021, extends the travel restrictions currently imposed on India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand until 15 August 2021.
- ▶ The Bureau of Immigration (BI) announced that starting 01 August 2021, its officers at the ports will no longer require the presentation of an entry exemption document (EED) from foreign spouses, children and parents of Filipino citizens who are traveling to the Philippines as tourists to visit their kin here.

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- ▶ The new policy is in compliance with the latest resolution of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infection Diseases (IATF) which eased the entry travel requirements for foreigners related by marriage or filiation to Filipinos.
- ▶ Previously, these aliens are allowed entry into the Philippines only if they have valid 9(a) tourist visas as well as an EED issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) through its various embassies or consulates abroad. Those who fail to secure and present either one of the two documents are excluded, and will be turned back upon arrival at the ports of entry.

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- ▶ Under the new IATF resolution, foreign spouses, children and parents of Filipinos will only be required to present 9(a) tourist visas beginning on Sunday. The IATF, however, instructed the DFA to include in the visa of said aliens the notation: EED not required per IATF Resolution No. 128 (s.2021). This latest ruling of the IATF is welcomed as it will now be easier and convenient for foreigners whose Filipino spouses and children are currently in the Philippines to visit and reunite with their loved ones.
- ▶ The BI stressed that the new travel guidelines apply only to foreigners who are not accompanied by their Filipino spouses or Filipino parents in going to the Philippines. Foreigners who are traveling with their Filipino spouses or parents are eligible for the Balikbayan program and they may be admitted visa-free for a one-year stay.

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- ▶ Those who are not traveling with their Filipino principal must apply for a 9(a)-tourist visa from a Philippine consulate abroad, which they would use for entry to the Philippines.
- ▶ BI Port Operations Division reminded that while the exemption on alien families of Filipinos has been loosened, the ban for those coming from 10 countries due to the COVID-19 Delta variant remains. Those coming from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand are still not allowed to enter the country. This includes those who have a travel history to said countries within the last 14 days from their date of arrival. Said travel ban, remains in effect until 15 August 2021, unless extended or expanded by the IATF.

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- ▶ Under Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) Resolution No. 131 dated 05 August 2021, the Crisis Action Plan Against COVID-19 Delta Variant and the proposed restructuring of the National Task Force Against COVID-19 are approved. The Sub-Technical Working Group on Data Analytics has also recommended the risk level classifications of provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities.
- ▶ The IATF issued Resolution No. 131-E on 07 August 2021 to place under Enhanced Community Quarantine the province of Bataan beginning 08 August 2021 until 22 August 2021.

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- ▶ The Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines was amended on 06 August 2021 to harmonize and codify existing guidelines of the IATF and member-agencies pertaining to community quarantine which shall be applied to all regions, provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays placed under community quarantine.
- ▶ The IATF issued Resolution No. 133-C on 12 August 2021 to extend the quarantine classification in Laguna until 20 August 2021.
- ▶ The IATF issued Resolution No. 133-B on 12 August 2021 to identify jurisdictions which shall be considered 'Green' or low risk countries based on a set of incidence rate.

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- ▶ The IATF issued Resolution No. 133-A on 12 August 2021 to declare the risk-level classifications of provinces, highly urbanized cities and independent component cities effective 16 August 2021.
- ▶ The IATF issued Resolution No. 133 on 12 August 2021 to extend the travel restrictions to various countries until 31 August 2021.
- ▶ The IATF issued Resolution No. 134 on 19 August 2021 to announce the quarantine classification in NCR and Laguna from ECQ to MECQ beginning 21 August 2021 until 31 August 2021.

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- ▶ The Bureau of Immigration (BI) has issued Operations Order No. JHM-2021-004 dated 16 August 2021 pursuant to the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) Resolution Number 131-A. It lays out the guidelines for visa issuance of foreign nationals who intend to come to the Philippines to engage in long-term employment (more than six months) or employment connected with foreign-funded government projects.
- ▶ The IATF issued Resolution No. 135-C on 30 August 2021 to extend the travel restrictions currently in place in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia until 05 September 2021.

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- ▶ The IATF issued Resolution No. 138 on 09 September 2021 to approve the shift in the policy of provinces and cities for purposes of community quarantine adopting Alert Level System with each level limiting restrictions only to identified high-risk activities.

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- ▶ Delay in the payment of personal income tax withholdings. For eligible entities, the taxpayer may elect for the payment of PIT withholdings, due in the second trimester of 2020, to be fulfilled in one of the following ways:
 - ▶ Immediate payment, as usual; or
 - ▶ Fractional payment in three or six installments, in both cases, without delay interest
- ▶ This is available for the following taxpayers:
 - ▶ Taxpayers with a turnover up to EUR10M in 2018;
 - ▶ Taxpayers who operate in sectors covered by the lockdown (i.e., leisure, cultural, artistic, sports, open space, games and gambling, and restoration activities).

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No tax update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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- ▶ Impediment to work due to the risk of contagion.
- ▶ Under the terms of Order no. 2875-A/2020, of 3 March 2020, the temporary impediment of beneficiaries to perform their professional activity, recognized by the Health Authority, in the context of risk of contagion by COVID-19 (i.e., prophylactic isolation, commonly referred to as "quarantine") shall have the same treatment as an illness which requires hospitalization.
- ▶ If the employee possesses a notice of prophylactic isolation issued by the Health Authority, he/she is entitled to receive:
 - ▶ An allowance equivalent to the sickness allowance in an amount corresponding to 100% of the reference salary, for the initial 14 days (counted from the first day of the notice of isolation).

Other major changes

- ▶ On 18 March 2020, the Portuguese President has ruled the State of Alarm which has been approved by the Portuguese Parliament. On 2 May 2020 the State of Alarm has ceased, and currently the State of Calamity is in force. There are several lines of credit to be made available, special rules for current investment projects, flexibility in hiring staff for the health sector, suspension of overtime in the health sector, among other measures. We will update as soon as the measures are published. The following measures were approved on 15 March 2020:
 - ▶ Extraordinary support measure for the preservation of employment contracts, with or without training, in business crisis situations
 - ▶ Extraordinary training plan
 - ▶ Extraordinary financial incentive to support the normalization of the company's activity, and

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- ▶ Taxpayers who have begun their activity on or after 1 January 2019. Note that taxpayers not mentioned above may also benefit from this deferral, in instances where they report and demonstrate a loss of at least 20% (compared to the averaged of the 3 months prior to the month at stake, versus the same period in the previous year), in the amount of revenues invoiced by the company as reported in the E-invoice system. The loss in the revenues should be certified by a Statutory Auditor or Certified Accountant.
- ▶ Personal Income Tax withholdings of the months of April and May can be paid until 25 May 2020 and 25 June 2020, respectively.

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- ▶ An allowance between 55% and 75% of the reference salary in the subsequent periods (although prophylactic isolation, as a general rule, does not exceed 14 days). This benefit is not applicable to employees who are able to perform their duties through teleworking or distance learning. The payment of this allowance is not subject to a guarantee period, job index or waiting period.
- ▶ Closing of Schools - right of the employees who have to stay at home to take care of the children:
 - ▶ Absences shall be deemed justified for employees who have to stay at home with children under 12 years of age, or, regardless of their age, if they have a disability or chronic disease, due to the closing of schools (in case employees cannot resort to teleworking)

Other major changes

- ▶ Temporary exemption from the payment of Social Security contributions by the employer.
- ▶ Extraordinary support measure for the preservation of employment contracts (simplified layoff). The extraordinary support for the preservation of employment contracts is open to companies facing a business crisis situation, which can include:
 - ▶ Situations of complete or partial stop of the business activity of a company or establishment, due to the lockdown enforced by Decree-Law 2-A/2020, or by legislative or administrative decision;
 - ▶ By means of a statement issued by the employer and certified by its Certified Accountant, in the following situations:

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- ▶ In this case, exceptional financial support will be granted to employees in the amount of two thirds of the base salary. This amount will be supported by the employer and Social Security in equal parts, i.e., nearly 33% by the employer and 33% by Social Security
- ▶ This financial support has a maximum limit of EUR 635 (national minimum salary for the mainland)
- ▶ The exceptional financial support is liable to Social Security Contributions at the rate of 11%, borne by employee (which shall be withhold and deducted by the employer), and 50% of the employer's contribution.

- ▶ Complete or partial stop of the business activity of a company or establishment, due to interruption of the supply chain or cancellation of purchase orders; or
- ▶ Sudden reduction of at least 40% of turnover in the 30 days period prior to the request, with reference to the monthly average of the two previous months or the same period of the prior year or, for taxpayers that have began their activity less than 12 months ago, to the average of the period of activity.
- ▶ Through this extraordinary support incentive, employees are entitled to remuneration corresponding to 2/3 of the employee's gross salary, capped at EUR1,905 (equivalent to 3 times the national minimum wage). This incentive lasts one month, extendable for additional months (up to three months). Several requirements need to be met (for

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- ▶ **Sickness allowance due to COVID-19:** Employees that are sick are entitled to an allowance between 55% and 75% of the reference salary (depending upon the duration of the sickness) and up to a maximum of 1,095 days.

- ▶ Delay in the payment of Social Security contributions

The scheme will be open to the following entities:

- ▶ Self-employees;
- ▶ Employers with less than 50 employees;

example, companies cannot distribute dividends during the period of the measures being applied, and employers are not allowed to dismiss employees under a collective dismissal or an extinction of the labour position, during the period of validity of these measures as well as in the 60 following days).

- ▶ **Exceptional training plan:** The exceptional support to be granted to each employee is supported by IEFP, I. P. and takes into consideration the hours of vocational training attended by the employee, up to the limit of 50% of the employee's remuneration, up to a maximum of €635. Note that the exceptional training plan aid cannot be applied for by those entitled to apply for the financial aid to keep employment contracts.

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- ▶ Employers with 50 up to 249 employees, as long as they have suffered a loss of at least 20% in the amount of revenues invoiced by the company as reported in the E-invoice system in the months of March, April and May 2020, versus the same period of the previous year or, in case of employers that have began their activity less than 12 months ago, to the average of the period of activity;
- ▶ Employers with 250 or more employees, as long as they have suffered a loss of at least 20% in the amount of revenues invoiced by the company as reported in the E-invoice system in the months of March, April and May 2020, versus the same period in the previous year or, in case of employers that have began their activity less than 12 months ago, to the average of the period of activity, and the company falls into one of the

- ▶ Financial aid for the support of the normalization of business activity.
- ▶ Financial aid paid in one single installment in the amount of EUR 635 per employee.
- ▶ Automatic extension of social benefits: In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, an extension of the following subsidies is automatic for situations where the recovery period ends before 30 June 2020:
 - ▶ Unemployment benefits, social unemployment benefits, cessation allowance for self-employed workers, Solidarity Supplement for the Elderly, Social Insertion Income.
- ▶ On 7 May 2020, the benefit requirements from social unemployment benefits have also been reduced.

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- following categories of taxpayers: (i) private welfare institutions or equivalents; (ii) employers operating in sectors covered by the lockdown (i.e., leisure, cultural, artistic, sports, open space, games and gambling, and restoration activities), or in the sectors of aviation or tourism; (iii) the activity of the employers has been suspended by legislative or administrative decision.
- ▶ The social security contributions (on the employer part) of eligible entities due for the months of March, April and May 2020 can be paid in the following terms:
 - ▶ 1/3 of the SS contributions in the month they are due;
 - ▶ The remaining 2/3 in equal instalments in the months of July, August and September 2020 or in the months from July to December, without interest.
 - ▶ The deadline for payment of the February Social Security contributions (20 March 2020) has been postponed to 31 March 2020.

- ▶ Financial aid for informal economy workers: Introduced on 7 May 2020, financial aid for workers that are not currently mandatorily enrolled in a national or foreign social security scheme, and who declare the beginning or reopening of their business activity by the Portuguese Tax Authorities, as self-employed workers. The financial aid amounts to half of the social support index (EUR 219.4) per month and is granted for a maximum period of 2 months. The individual needs to keep self-employment activity for at least 24 months after the end of the financial aid period.

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- ▶ Temporary exemption for SS contributions by the employer: Companies facing a business crisis situation (please refer to the column "Other major changes" for more information) that benefit from the simplified layoff or exceptional training incentive can be entitled to temporary exemption for SS contributions on the employer part.
- ▶ Social Security on posted workers and frontier workers
 - ▶ Administrative Order 94-A/2020 has established the principle that, for employees resident of Portugal that are covered by the SS legislation of another EU member state, EEA member State of Switzerland, the periods of remote working in Portugal during the COVID-19 period, shall not be taken into consideration for the determination of the applicable SS legislation, and should not imply any change in the applicable legislation.

- ▶ The IATF issued Resolution No. 134 on 19 August 2021 to announce the quarantine classification in NCR and Laguna from ECQ to MECQ beginning 21 August 2021 until 31 August 2021.

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- ▶ In addition, the Portuguese Social Security Authorities have issued a ruling with clarifications on the validity of A1s for posting of employees, multi-state workers and frontier workers. The main goal is to ensure that the SS treatment is not impacted by remote working. Therefore, in the case of posted workers, if the employee will continue to work in the host country under an A1 issued by Portugal, the SS contributions will be kept in Portugal and these employees will have the same rights as the remaining employees working in Portuguese territory. If the employees return to Portugal, the A1 remains valid until the end of the assignment mentioned in the A1 form. In case the assignment is extended, a new A1 should be requested. These rules are also applicable in the case of the exceptional agreement under Article 16 of the EC Regulation 883/2004. If the assignment did not happen due to travel restrictions, a new

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A1 should be requested if the assignment happens later.

- ▶ Regarding multi-state workers, in case the applicable legislation is that of the other State (not Portugal), the fact that the activity in Portugal due to remote working becomes a substantial activity, should not impact the applicable legislation, and the employee should continue to be covered by the Social Security legislation of the other State. In case the applicable legislation is Portugal, the periods of remote working in other EU member state should not imply any change in the applicable legislation (that should continue to be Portugal).
- ▶ In the case of frontier workers, the applicable legislation is the State where they perform their activity and the periods of remote working due to COVID-19 should not imply any change in the applicable legislation.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Due to the COVID-19 the Puerto Rico Treasury Department (PRTD) along with other governmental agencies postponed the due dates in order to file their respective tax returns. Due date for the individual tax return was postponed to 17 May 2021 parallel to US individual tax returns. The extended due date for filing the income tax return is 17 November 2021.
- ▶ Apart from the postponing of due dates the Puerto Rico Treasury Department along with the US Federal Government are offering some benefits to the taxpayers (Individuals and Corporations) in order to mitigate as possible the impact of the COVID-19. There is an inclusion of a new schedule in the individual tax return in order for individuals to determine and claim any COVID-related Tax Relief payment to be received.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States and contributes to the same Social Security system as in United States. Therefore, any change that make the IRS will impact Puerto Rico in the same manner.

Other major changes

- ▶ Estimated Tax Payments: The Puerto Rico Treasury Department (PRTD) has extended the deadline for Q1 estimated tax payments for companies and individuals to 15 June 2021. However, the taxpayer must ensure that the Q1 and Q2 estimated tax payments are both done by 15 June 2021. Q3 and Q4 estimated tax payment deadlines have the same original due dates.
- ▶ Withholding at source: No exemptions were provided for 2021.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Certain changes to the reporting and income tax payment due on salary benefits (either in cash or in kind) received from third parties, for example, other companies from the group (example, share plans)
 - ▶ Income tax free benefits as indicated above

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Certain changes to the reporting and income tax payment due on salary benefits (either in cash or in kind) received from third parties, for example, other companies from the group (example, share plans)
 - ▶ Employee telework related expenses: the employer may grant an amount of up to 400 lei/month, income tax free, to each employee to cover telework related expenses, proportionally with the number of teleworking days.
 - ▶ Costs covered by the employer for its employees for epidemiological testing or vaccination is income tax free.
 - ▶ The incentive regarding the amounts paid by the employer for the early childhood education of employee's children (who were income tax free) has been cancelled starting 01 April 2021 until 31 December 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Certain changes to the reporting and social charges payment due on salary benefits (either in cash or in kind) received from third parties, for example, other companies from the group (example, share plans)
 - ▶ Employee telework related expenses: the employer may grant an amount of up to 400 lei/month, social charges free, to each employee to cover telework related expenses, proportionally with the number of teleworking days.
 - ▶ Costs covered by the employer for its employees for epidemiological testing or vaccination is social charges free.
 - ▶ The incentive regarding the amounts paid by the employer for the early childhood education of employee's children (who were social charges free) has been cancelled starting 01 April 2021 until 31 December 2021.

Other major changes

- ▶ The tax amnesty provided for any outstanding tax liabilities (income tax, social charges, or other taxes) due as of 31 March 2020 has been extended till 31 January 2022. To claim the annulment of the penalties and interests for any delayed income reporting and tax payments, the filing of the tax returns and payment of the tax liabilities have to be made till 31 January 2022.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Vacation related expenses (tourist/ treatment), income tax free, for employees and family members have been limited to the value of a national gross medium salary per year.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Vacation related expenses (tourist/ treatment), social charges free, for employees and family members have been limited to the value of a national gross medium salary per year.

Other major changes

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ The deadlines for submission of statutory employment tax reports fall within March 2021 to May 2021. No changes or extensions have been announced yet.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The deadline for submission of 2020 personal income tax return (form 3-NDFL) is 30 April 2021. The personal income tax payment deadline is 15 July 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The deadlines for submission of statutory employment tax reports fall within March 2021 to May 2021. No changes or extensions have been announced yet.

Other major changes

- ▶ There are no deadline extensions and other major changes announced till now for 2021 (2020 tax year).

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No tax update has been issued due to COVID-19. Normal tax processes will continue and tax due dates will remain the same.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ The tax authority are not accepting physical letters and at the moment for some services you must request an appointment before visiting the offices.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Singaporean/SPR employees exercising overseas employment and now working remotely from Singapore for that employment.
- ▶ Days in Singapore working remotely for the overseas employment will not be considered as employment days in Singapore for the period from date of return to Singapore up to 30 September 2020*, provided that the following conditions are met:
 1. There are no changes in the contractual terms governing the employment overseas before and after the employee's return to Singapore; and
 2. This is a temporary work arrangement due to COVID-19 situation

Social Security changes

- ▶ Central Provident Fund (CPF) treatment on cash reimbursements given due to COVID-19 measures.
- ▶ CPF contributions are not required on any cash payments made for defraying the employees' meal, lodging or utility expenses if:
 - ▶ The payment is provided in the form of reimbursement based on actual expenditure of which proof must be shown;
 - ▶ The reimbursement does not increase the employees' wages; and
 - ▶ The employees are only entitled to such reimbursements based on their continued attendance at employment and work in Singapore of which transport, meal, lodging and utility expenses would be incurred due to the COVID-19 measures such as lockdown, Work from Home, Leave of Absence or relocation to other site (not normal place of work).

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Other major changes

- ▶ If the conditions are met, the income attributable to the period of extended stay in Singapore will not be taxed. Otherwise, if any of the conditions are not met, the tax rules outlined under “Current tax treatment” will apply to determine taxation for the period of extended stay. In addition, the tax rules will apply as per normal in respect of the income earned during the short-term assignment period.
- ▶ Deferral payment option:
 - ▶ Lump sum payment: Due date for tax payment will be deferred by 3 months. For example, if the current due date for tax payment is 15 May 2020, tax payment will be deferred to 15 August 2020
 - ▶ General Interbank Recurring Order (GIRO): The installment cycle will run from August 2020 to July 2021
 - ▶ Application to apply for tax deferral needs to be submitted by 31 July 2020

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Other major changes

Once the request is approved by the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS), the deferral will supersede the current payment due date/GIRO arrangement.

- ▶ Any individual who needs additional help with tax payment due to financial difficulties can write to the IRAS for special consideration.
- ▶ Tax filing deadline will be extended till 15 August 2020.
- ▶ Tax clearance for foreign employees in April 2020: Employers who are required to seek tax clearance for their employees in the month of April will be given 1 month's extension to file Form IR21. The current requirement for employers to withhold monies and release monies upon receipt of IRAS notification or after 1 month from filing of Form IR21 remains.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No pandemic measures related to extension of filing deadline. The statutory deadline is 31 March 2021 (extended statutory deadline is 30 June 2021 upon submitted notification).

Social Security changes

- ▶ Social and health insurance contributions for May 2021 to be paid by employers and self-employed persons are due by 31 December 2023, if their turnovers decrease by more than 40%. It is expected this will be extended until further notice from the authorities.
- ▶ Also, the payment due date for the social and health insurance contributions to be paid by employers and self-employed persons were extended as stated in the table below:
 - ▶ SSHI for March 2020 are due by 30 September 2021
 - ▶ SSHI for May 2020 are due by 31 December 2021
 - ▶ SSHI for June 2020 are due by 31 March 2022
 - ▶ SSHI for July 2020 are due by 30 June 2022

Other major changes

- ▶ As of February 2021, support for employers in connection with the reimbursement of employee's salary should be increased to 100% of the total labor cost per employee. The flat-rate allowance for compensation of the employee's salary should be from EUR 330 to EUR 870, and the number of categories of decrease in sales increases as stated below.
- ▶ Decrease in sales allowance
 - ▶ 20.00% - 29.99% EUR 330
 - ▶ 30.00% - 39.99% EUR 420
 - ▶ 40.00% - 49.99% EUR 510
 - ▶ 50.00% - 59.99% EUR 600
 - ▶ 60.00% - 69.99% EUR 690
 - ▶ 70.00% - 79.99% EUR 780
 - ▶ > 80.00% EUR 870

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Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ SSHI for December 2020 are due by 30 September 2022
- ▶ SSHI for January 2021 are due by 31 December 2022
- ▶ SSHI for February 2021 are due by 31 March 2023
- ▶ SSHI for March 2021 are due by 30 June 2023
- ▶ SSHI for April 2021 are due by 30 September 2023
- ▶ SSHI for May 2021 are due by 31 December 2023

- ▶ Allowance for compensation of employee's salary:
 - ▶ First aid: 80% of gross employee's income, maximum EUR 880
 - ▶ First aid +: 80% of the total cost of labor (in connection with employee's income), maximum EUR 1,100
 - ▶ First aid ++: 100% of the total cost of labor (in connection with employee's income), maximum EUR 1,100
- ▶ Due to the fact that during August 2021 none of the Slovakia regions reported the increasing number of COVID-19 pandemic infection cases, the first aid should not be applicable for August 2021.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Updates for Slovenia are foreseen by 23 April by the Tax Authorities with regards to reporting of payroll that is related to claiming state support during COVID-19, hence this will have impact also on how the payroll is done.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Annual tax return deadlines were moved from 31 March 2020 to 31 May 2020 and to 31 August 2020.

Social Security changes

- ▶ For idle workers and workers that stay at home due to force majeure and if certain other conditions are met the company can claim full exemption from payment of social security in period from 13 March 2020 to end of May 2020. For workers who are working a partial exemption from ssc can be applied

Other major changes

- ▶ Employer is entitled to reimbursement for compensation paid to idle workers and workers who are at home due to force majeure and also for sick leave from first day of sickness. All is available under certain conditions that should be meet.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ An additional Employment Tax Incentive of up to R 750 per month in respect of those private sector employees earning below R 6,500.
- ▶ Allowing a monthly ETI claim in the amount of R 750 during this four-month period for employees from the ages of 18 to 29 who are no longer eligible for the ETI as the employer has claimed ETI in respect of those employees for 24 months, or they were in the employer's employ before 01 October 2013.
- ▶ Allowing a monthly ETI claim in the amount of R 750 during this four-month period for employees from the ages 30 to 65 who are not eligible for the ETI due to their age.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No tax compliance change update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other major change update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Tax compliant businesses with a turnover of less than R 100 million will be allowed to delay 35% of their PAYE liabilities over the next three months (August 2021 to October 2021). The balance can be paid over the subsequent four-month period in equal instalments effective 01 November 2021.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Suspension of deadlines in the tax area during the state of alarm, in particular:
 - ▶ It establishes deadline extensions for tax due payments and tax proceedings (tax audits, seizures, etc.).
 - ▶ There are no changes in the deadlines for the filing of tax returns.

Social Security changes

- ▶ In case of temporary collective dismissals related to COVID-19, companies are exonerated (totally or partially) from paying the employer contribution (with no impact for the employees).
- ▶ Self-employed who stop activity or reduce revenue by more than 75% are exempted from Social Security contributions. They will also receive an allowance equivalent to 70% of their Social Security base.

Other major changes

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Sick leave from work: Employers' compensation to employees during the first 14 days of sickness (absence) will temporarily be taken by the state. This will be in effect during April to July 2020. During August and September 2020, the state will bear the employer's increased costs for sick pay due to COVID-19.
- ▶ Normally, the first day of a sick leave is a so-called qualifying day and does not entitle the employee to sick pay. This qualifying day is now removed, and sick pay is thereby granted from the first day of a sick period. This will apply for the period 11 March 2020 to 30 June 2021. The employee will receive an amount of SEK 810 from the state for the sick day.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Tax returns for individuals that are prepared by accounting or bookkeeping firms may be filed later than usually, i.e., 15 June 2021 instead of 15 May 2021.
- ▶ Anyone who reports and pays employer social security contributions, taxes withheld from employee salaries and VAT may be granted deferral. The rules apply to business with acceptable financial records.
- ▶ Deferral of tax payments may be granted for up to one year, with the possibility to apply to prolong the deferral for one more year.
- ▶ Social security contributions, and taxes withheld from employee salaries: Total amount that can be deferred is limited to a maximum of seven months' worth of payments. The reporting periods that may be subject to deferral are January 2020 to January 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Reduced employer contributions: Social Security contributions on salary payments are reduced during March to June 2020. The reduced employer contributions amount to 10,21% instead of the normal 31,42% (2020). The reduction is capped to the first 30 employees of the company. A reassessment for the mentioned months can retroactively be filed according to normal rules.
- ▶ Commuting between Sweden and Denmark: For individuals commuting between Sweden and Denmark, the new restrictions due to COVID-19 will not lead to a change in social security coverage according to an agreement between the States respective responsible authorities.

Other major changes

- ▶ The Swedish Government introduced new rules on short-time work with financial support from the state. The purpose of the rules is to support employment and curb unemployment, in particularly deep economic downturns or in situations that could have not been foreseen, by reducing employees' working hours and wages. The cost is shared between the government, the employer and the employees.
- ▶ Employer's salary costs can be reduced up to 72%, while the employee receives 88% to 96% of his or her salary. To qualify for preliminary support, the employee's working hours must be reduced by 20%, 40%, 60% or 80% of their regular working hours.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ VAT reported on a monthly basis: Total amount that can be deferred is limited to a maximum of six months' worth of payments. The reporting periods that may be subject to deferral are January 2020 to January 2021.
- ▶ VAT reported on an annual basis: Deferral may be granted for one-year worth of VAT that is to be reported between 27 December 2019 and 17 December 2021.
- ▶ Practicalities: The deferral rules entered into effect on 30 March 2020 and 6 April 2020 but have retroactive effect from 1 January 2020. Hence, taxes already paid may be reclaimed. This may be requested when applying for deferral. An interest rate of 1.25% is charged on an annual basis during the entire deferral, and also a fee of 0.2% per month starting from the seventh month the deferral was granted. This is not tax-deductible. For applications filed from 5 February 2021, the fee will instead be

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charged from the month after the deferral was granted, and then with a fee of 0.1%.

- ▶ Payroll and VAT returns need to be submitted on time even if deferral of payment is granted.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ In the event of loss of work (partial/technical unemployment) linked to the COVID-19 epidemic, a claim for compensation for reduced working hours (RHT) can be filed with the unemployment office.
- ▶ Partial unemployment claims have increased sharply due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are expected to continue to rise. As of 23 March 2020, 21,000 companies had submitted such a request. That figure represents 315,000 workers. The amount of compensation covers 80% of the salary taken into account. This maximum salary amount per employee is CHF 12,350 per month (CHF 148,200 on an annual basis).
- ▶ Further measures are introduced on a cantonal level, such as simplification of application forms or faster examinations. Also Swiss social contributions payments will be deferred for the companies hit by this crisis.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The tax treaties concluded by France with Germany, Belgium and Switzerland provide for specific tax regimes for workers residing and working in the border area.
- ▶ In order to simplify their administrative procedures, these schemes allow the exclusive taxation of their wages in the State of residence, i.e., France for cross-border workers residing there, provided that they do not work more than a certain number of days outside the border area of the other State.
- ▶ In the exceptional health context of the COVID-19 epidemic and taking into account the recommendations and instructions of the public authorities, France has agreed with Belgium and Switzerland that, until further notice, the days during which frontier workers are required to remain at home during this crisis should not be taken into account in counting the number of days referred to above. Consequently, these days will not affect the eligibility of cross-border

Social Security changes

- ▶ The Swiss authorities have confirmed, together with the other EU/EFTA member states, that in general, for individuals who were subject to the Swiss social security scheme prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, this exceptional situation does generally not affect the social security affiliation. With this regard the federal social insurance office issued a directive on 30 March 2020. Generally, this directive is valid until the end of this year but is subject to adjustments based on the further course of the pandemic. Individuals who are temporarily unable to perform their work physically in Switzerland and carry out their work from home in another country than Switzerland or for those who are unable to take up their new employment in Switzerland as per the planned start date, remain subject to Swiss social security law.

Other major changes

- ▶ As of 15 June 2020, all Schengen states have been removed from the list of high-risk countries. Further, border controls at all land and air borders between Schengen states and Switzerland have been lifted and the rules on the freedom of movement of persons between Switzerland and the EU is again applicable. This means that all EU/EFTA nationals are again allowed to enter Switzerland with their passports only even when traveling from a Non-Schengen state. Third-country nationals who are already legally resident in the Schengen area are allowed to enter Switzerland. This excludes those citizens living in EU-member states not part of the Schengen area. Third-country nationals who are holding a valid Swiss permit or work authorization (i.e., D visa, 120 days C visa, online announcement confirmation) are allowed to enter Switzerland

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Employers affected by COVID-19 can request to postpone remittance of social security charges (AHV/IV/EO/ALV) and the authorities will waive all interest on these charges.
- ▶ In case the salaries have significantly decreased an adjustment of the pre-payments can be requested with the AHV. Where short-time work compensation has been requested an interest free postponement of the social security charges is also possible. The employer doesn't have to prove that these are continuously remitted.

Tax compliance changes

- workers for the specific tax regime.
- ▶ With regards to Germany, the mutual agreement concluded with France in 2006 already covers this situation, which will also enable frontier workers not to see their specific scheme affected by the number of days they will be required to stay at their place of residence.
 - ▶ As of 20 March 2020 up to 31 December 2020 the Swiss Federal Government is waiving all interest charges on the late payment of VAT, excise duty, special public charges (Lenkungsgebühren) and customs duty. Further, the Federal Government is waiving the interest charged on the late payment of all Direct Federal taxes which would have been due during the aforementioned period. Therefore conversely, interest could still be charged on Direct Federal taxes which were already due/overdue by 20 March 2020.
 - ▶ A number of the Cantons have extended their tax filing deadlines in view of the crisis.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Thus, it is not necessary to systematically apply for A1 certificates for these employees. According to the Swiss authorities, neighboring countries have been informed about this approach.
- ▶ Should a neighboring country still require an A1 certificate despite the extraordinary situation, the Swiss authorities are willing to issue this documentation.
- ▶ At the beginning of July, Switzerland came to an agreement with Germany to continue with the flexible approach until 31 December 2020. With Austria and France, Switzerland agreed to keep up the flexible approach at least until 31 August 2020. Switzerland is in close contact with other neighboring country to come to a similar agreement.
- ▶ Further, the Swiss authorities confirmed that based on their point of view, the flexible interpretation of the subordination rules continues to apply unless otherwise agreed with the neighboring states.

Other major changes

- ▶ As of 20 July 2020 the usual entry requirements will apply again if coming from the below mentioned countries. Therefore entering as tourists or business travelers will be possible for the following countries: Algeria, Andorra, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Ireland, Japan, Morocco, Monaco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Romania, San Marino, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, Vatican/Holy See.
- ▶ Entry from other third countries without a valid Swiss visa (work) or permit is still not allowed, i.e., for holiday or for non-urgent business meetings. Exception: Attendance for important business meetings that cannot be postponed and which require personal presence (e.g. contract negotiations and signings, business inspections or other important representative assignments).

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- ▶ Austria: So far, the Austrian authorities have not published an official statement in regards to how they are handling the cross-boarder commuter situation. The Austrian Social Ministry acknowledges the current exceptional circumstances and thus there should be no change in the applicable social security law in cases that were already decided. As mentioned above, Switzerland and Austria agreed on the continuation of the flexible approach until 31 August 2020. After this date the further procedure will be jointly determined according to the general health situation. From the Swiss social security authorities view the flexible approach applies unless otherwise agreed.

- ▶ Quarantine Measures: From 6 July 2020, Persons entering Switzerland and who, at any time within 14 days prior to entry have been into a state or territory with increased risk of infection with the COVID-19 virus, are obliged to immediately and directly go to their home or another suitable accommodation after their entry to Switzerland. They must stay permanently there for 10 days after their arrival (quarantine).

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- ▶ Belgium: The authorities apply the following measures as of 13 March 2020 onward until at least 5 April 2020 or until a different policy point of view will be adopted
 - ▶ Periods of telework performed on Belgian territory by frontier workers due to COVID-19 will exceptionally not be taken into account for the determination of the applicable social security legislation and that they will therefore have no influence on their affiliation to social security.
 - ▶ A1 certificates which have already been issued remain valid and it will not be necessary to inform the authorities about the changed work pattern and neither to request for an exceptional agreement.
- ▶ With Germany and Austria, the flexible approach is now valid until 31 December 2021. With France, it is now valid until 15 November 2021.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Government subsidies, grants, allowances, rewards and compensations received by the COVID-19 affected individual under the Statute or Communicable Disease Control Act are exempted from individual income tax.
- ▶ For a foreign individual who stayed in Taiwan over 182 days in a calendar year due to travel restriction under COVID-19 and therefore became a Taiwan tax resident based on current tax regulations, the Taiwan tax authority may allow the individual to apply for non-resident tax treatment in an annual tax return filing. The individual must submit valid supporting documents to prove the difficulty encountered under travel restrictions and the application will be reviewed by the tax authority on a case-by-case basis.
- ▶ The filing deadline for the 2020 tax year Taiwan individual income tax return is extended from 31 May 2021 to 30 June 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ E-filing for monthly payroll withholding tax return of the company (employer's obligation) for August, September, October and November 2021 is extended to end of September, October, November and December 2021 respectively.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The extension of filing deadline to 30 June 2021 is applicable for e-filing only.
- ▶ For paper submission, the filing deadline remains 31 March 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The SSF rate has been temporarily reduced to 2.5% for employee and employer contribution from June 2021 to August 2021 (three months).

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Companies may request for three months deferral of tax payments, including payroll tax when facing liquidity issues due to COVID-19. Wage tax filings still need to be made.
- ▶ When companies have requested for deferred payment, no penalties will be imposed for late payment of taxes including payroll taxes.
- ▶ Employers can provide employees with tax-free allowances and employment benefits using the tax-free budget of the work-related costs scheme (in Dutch: WKR (with kind regards)). This tax-free budget will be increased on a one-time basis from 1.7% to 3% of the first EUR 400,000 of the employer's taxable wage bill.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Interest rates on tax payments due and tax collections will be decreased from 4% to 0.01%. The reduction was temporary for three months but this period has now been extended until 1 October 2020.
- ▶ Tax interest will be reduced from 4%/8% to 0,01% for all taxes, effective from 1 June 2020 for all taxes except PIT which will be effective from 1 July 2020.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Working from home will not be taken into account for determining the 25% condition for social security purposes.
- ▶ Starting a new job with an employer outside the Netherlands will result in a change of country in which the new employee is socially secured.
- ▶ The Netherlands has agreed with Belgium and Germany that home working days for employees normally working in another country could be taxable in the country in which the employee would normally work. The employee should choose which country (home or working country) they would like these days to be taxed.

Other major changes

- ▶ Temporary measure for companies facing a loss of turnover (at least 20%) due to COVID-19. If a company is part of a "group", the (loss of) turnover of the entire group is the basis for the NOW (temporary Emergency Measure Scheme) application. If the loss of turnover of the entire group is less than 20%, but an operating company within the group has a loss of turnover of at least 20%, this company may also apply for the Temporary Emergency Bridging Measure for Sustained Employment (in Dutch: NOW). Additional conditions apply. The NOW measure can be applied for up to three months (March/April/May) covering up to 90% of the employees' income. The company is requested to pay the remainder 10% and must not lay off personnel in this period for economic reasons and must continue to pay wages. A NOW 2.0 measure is expected for June/July/August.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ Approval has been given for fixed travel allowances which meet the conditions for tax exemption to continue to be paid tax free during the period of COVID-19 crisis as if the employee's travel pattern has not changed. The employer may therefore continue to provide the travel allowance for days spent at home because of the COVID-19 as though the employee had travelled to their place of work. One condition for tax exemption, for example, is what's known as the 128/214 day rule. A fixed travel allowance may be based on 214 days travel per year but the employee only has to actually travel on 128 days. Working days at home because of COVID-19 are regarded as actual travel days.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ Self employed persons can be entitled to a special state benefit for a three month period to provide for income.
- ▶ Compensation payment are available to certain businesses in affected sectors (in Dutch: TOGS).
- ▶ There is employer support when hiring new employees.
 - ▶ Employers who cannot identify a new employee in person does not have to apply the anonymous tax rate.
 - ▶ Proper identification of the employee will be handled by the employer once possible again.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The deadline for filing annual income tax return is 31 March 2021.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ No other update has been issued due to COVID-19.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ IR35 Legislation (anti avoidance tax legislation) reforms requiring PAYE to be operated for off-payroll workers falling within IR35 will be deferred until 6 April 2021.
- ▶ "Time to Pay" arrangements for Pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) and other taxes, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have announced changes to arrangements for deferring tax liabilities.
- ▶ HMRC have set up a team to discuss these arrangements with taxpayers and each case will be looked at on its own merits.
- ▶ While HMRC are making it clear they are not a bank making loans (so they will expect evidence from distressed businesses that they have sought alternative financing arrangements) there is the facility **to defer tax payments (corporate tax, Value added tax, Pay-as-you-earn, Air Passenger Duty Tax)** for three months if the business can demonstrate financial difficulty.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ Updated Guidance on Statutory Residence Test - certain days spent in the UK, which are beyond the individual's control, may be disregarded for some of the tests under the Statutory Residence Test. While this concept is not new:
 - ▶ HMRC has issued further guidance to clarify their position for days spent in the UK due to COVID-19. HMRC accepts that individuals who are quarantined, or unable to leave the UK as a result of official Government advice or closure of international borders, or are asked by their employers to return temporarily to the UK as a result of the virus can treat these days as exceptional.
- ▶ At this stage, the maximum number of days that can be treated as exceptional are 60, and facts and circumstances need to be reviewed in each case.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) - Companies with less than 250 employees will be able to reclaim the cost of 2 weeks of Statutory Sick Pay.
- ▶ In addition please note that the UK government is legislating for SSP to be paid from day one, rather than day four, of an absence from work if the absence is due to sickness or a need to self-isolate caused by COVID-19.
- ▶ Once the legislation has been passed, this will apply retrospectively from 13 March 2020. This doesn't include the need to provide childcare.

Other major changes

- ▶ Home working expenses - Home working weekly maximum expense reimbursement increased from GBP 4 to GBP 6.
- ▶ COVID-19 Job Retention Scheme: if an employer cannot cover staff costs due to COVID-19, they may be able to access support to continue paying part of the wages, to avoid redundancies.
- ▶ To qualify for this scheme, employees should not undertake work for their employers. Employers can claim a grant of up to 80% of wages for all employment costs, up to a cap of GBP 2,500 per month.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The standard annual tax return filing deadline (30 April 2021) applies to 2020 Ukrainian personal income tax returns.
- ▶ The standard deadline for payment of tax due according to the annual tax return (31 July 2021) applies to 2020 Ukrainian personal income tax liability.
- ▶ Tax audits are suspended for the period from 18 March 2020 till the end of the quarantine in Ukraine (the quarantine is currently scheduled to end on 30 April 2021, however, this will probably be prolonged).

Social Security changes

- ▶ Payment of the Unified Social Tax for private entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals was abolished for March, April and May 2020.

Other major changes

- ▶ Fines and penalties for some violations of tax law, committed in the period from 1 March 2020 until the end of the quarantine in Ukraine, will not be imposed.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ At the Federal level, the Families First COVID-19 Response Act includes The Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act. and The Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act. Private employers with less than 500 employees and governmental employers may avail themselves of certain credits and exemption from the employer social security for such emergency sick leave (also see under Social Security changes). On 27 March 2020, the president signed a USD \$2 trillion COVID-19 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The bill includes individual stimulus payments as well as provisions impacting the access to funds in retirement plans and expanding the benefit of charitable contributions.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The Federal individual income tax filing and payment due dates have been extended from 15 April 2020 to 15 July 2020 with waiver of interest and penalties. There is also provision for further extension pending further guidance from the Federal authorities. The CAREs Act is also pending passage in the Senate which may provide further benefits with regard to estimated tax payments. Many states are following suit but not uniformly. Therefore each state requirement needs to be confirmed.
- ▶ The CARES Act previously noted, provides employer benefits in the form of an employee retention credit, payroll tax deferral as well as expanded business interest expense limitations and liberalized Net Operating Loss rules among other benefits including loans with the possibility of forgiveness.

Social Security changes

- ▶ The Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act provides wage continuation where an employee must take leave to care for a son/daughter under 18 years of age due to school closure or lack of availability of the child care provider due to a public health emergency related to COVID-19. There are corresponding benefits to the employer as these wages are not subject to the employer's share of Social Security tax. Employers are eligible to receive a refundable tax credit equal to 100% of the paid leave wages. Here too the limitations noted under Payroll compliance changes will apply.

Other major changes

- ▶ There are travel restrictions to mainland China, Iran, European Schengen Area, UK and Ireland. Also limitations on travel across the Mexico and Canadian borders. The president signed the "CARES Act 3.5" otherwise known as "The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act" on 24 April 2020. This is a USD \$484 billion relief package intended to extend the loan and other relief benefits which were depleted under the CARES Act. The bill also includes aid for hospitals and COVID-19 testing.

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Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ On 27 March 2020, the president signed a USD 2 trillion COVID-19 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The bill includes individual stimulus payments as well as provisions impacting the access to funds in retirement plans and expanding the benefit of charitable contributions. Further the Act provides employer benefits related in the form of an employee retention credit, payroll tax deferral as well as expanded business interest expense limitations and liberalized Net Operating Loss rules among other benefits including loans with the possibility of forgiveness.

Tax compliance changes

Social Security changes

Other major changes

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ No Tax update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Social Security changes

- ▶ No social security update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Other major changes

- ▶ There is a Special Unemployment Insurance.
- ▶ Partial unemployment insurance application: A special unemployment insurance regime will allow to companies to apply this benefit for employees for less than a complete month and also for reduced working hours per day. This is to make the general unemployment insurance regime more flexible, because the general regime does not allow the partial application of this benefit as this new regime does.
- ▶ Health Subsidies for those employees in quarantine period due to prevention or because of a contact with COVID-19 positive individual.
- ▶ Exoneration of employer contributions to social security from January 2021 to June 2021 for small and medium entities.
- ▶ Additional payment facilities regime for social security contributions debts accrued from May 2018 to March 2021.

Payroll compliance changes

- ▶ No Payroll update has been issued due to COVID-19.

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ The family relief is increased to VND11 million/month/taxpayer and VND4.4 million/month/dependent. The new relief takes effect from 1 July 2020 and is applied for tax year 2020.

Social Security changes

- ▶ Reduction in insurance premiums for occupational accidents and diseases: Reduce the employer's contribution rate of occupational accident and disease (they are components in the social security scheme) from 0.5% to 0% from 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 (12 months). The monetary support obtained from this reduction will be used to combat the COVID-19 pandemic for the employee.
- ▶ Suspension of contributions to the retirement and survivorship fund: This is regarding employers who have fully paid social security or are temporarily suspending contributions to the retirement and survivorship fund until the end of April 2021. They should have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a downsizing of at least 15% employees who have contributed to social security compared to April 2021. The employees and the employers are entitled to a six-month suspension of payment to the retirement and survivorship fund from the date of application submission.

Other major changes

- ▶ Vietnam has resumed the entry of foreigners who are investors, experts, highly skilled workers, enterprise managers and their dependents (father, mother, wife, husband and children) into Vietnam. However, local sponsoring companies must seek permissions from the related authorities for the entry of their foreign employees. This process takes eight to ten weeks to be completed.
- ▶ Upon arrival at Vietnam, foreigners are required to quarantine for 21 days at government-nominated hotels and seven days at residential accommodation.
- ▶ It is also noteworthy that the revised regulations in 2021 on work permit have created challenges for foreign individuals working in Vietnam. The maximum duration of a work visa is two years and can only be extended once. A new application must be made after that.

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- ▶ Job retention training programs for employees: Employers are entitled to a financial support for employee's training, retraining and skill enhancement with the maximum amount of VND 1,500,000/month/employee, and the maximum support term of six months. The attached conditions comprise:
 - ▶ They have fully paid unemployment insurance premiums for employees for full 12 months or more at the time of requesting support
 - ▶ They change the technological structure as prescribed in the current regulation
 - ▶ Their revenue in the preceding quarter has decreased by 10% or more compared to the same period in 2019 or 2020 at the time of requesting support
 - ▶ They have a specific training plan in order to secure the jobs for employees as prescribed

- ▶ The General Confederation of Labour has approved to delay contributions of Trade Union fee (employer's obligation of 2%) up to 31 December 2021.
- ▶ This measure is applied for enterprises who are impacted by Covid-19 and having more than 50% of employees paying social insurance who temporarily leave their jobs.

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Payroll compliance changes

Tax compliance changes

- ▶ There is an exemption equivalent to 5,000 tax units (equivalent to USD 4) for FY 2020 for individuals considered residents and who file before the 31 March 2021 due date.

Social Security changes

Other major changes

- ▶ Official Gazette N ° 41,891 RESOLUTION N ° 090 Regarding Health regulations of social responsibility in the face of the pandemic caused by COVID-19.
- ▶ Which establishes the protocols to be followed for different activities during quarantine.
- ▶ Administrative Ruling N ° CJ-060-2020, establish the criteria for the Certification and Accreditation of Biosafety Programs for the Prevention and Control of Biological Risk due to exposure to the SARS-COV2 virus (COVID19), in public, private and mixed work entities in the National Territory.

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