

Mobility: Immigration alert

October 2022



Malaysia

New Social Visit Pass feature allows foreigners to undertake critical/emergency work

Executive summary

On 3 October 2022, the Malaysian immigration authorities introduced a new feature for eligible holders of Social Visit Passes, which allows them to travel to Malaysia for up to 30 days to undertake critical/emergency work in certain industries. Applications for this new feature (i.e., PLS@XPATS) are processed within three working days of submission.

Key updates

The PLS@XPATS feature authorizes eligible foreign nationals to travel to Malaysia to undertake short-term work that is considered critical to business (e.g., repair of machines or electrical power damage) in the following industries: security and defense; manufacturing; construction; health and medical; oil, gas and energy; finance and banking; electrical and electronics; wholesale and retail; tourism; business services; commodity; education; agriculture; aviation; and information, technology and infrastructure.

Individuals who seek to avail of this new feature must be sponsored by a Malaysian entity. The sponsor must submit the PLS@XPATS application [online](#) before the applicant travels to Malaysia, along with the following documents:

- ▶ A copy of all pages of the applicant's passport, which must be valid for at least six months from the date of filing their application
- ▶ Description and schedule of the work that the applicant will conduct in Malaysia
- ▶ The applicant's return flight ticket
- ▶ The sponsor's profile obtained from the Suruhanjaya Syarikat Malaysia (SSM) portal

- ▶ Additional documents as requested by the Malaysian immigration authorities

Successful applicants from certain countries who require a visa to enter Malaysia must also obtain a Visa Without Reference from the Malaysian Embassy or Consulate in their home country or country of residence or an [e-visa](#) prior to travel. Visa-exempt individuals whose PLS@XPATS applications are accepted will receive an approval letter issued by the Malaysian immigration authorities, and they may travel to Malaysia using this approval letter and their valid passport.

The PLS@XPATS does not provide tax benefits to its holders or sponsors, and holders are not eligible to bring in dependents to Malaysia. Those who fail to adhere to relevant requirements may be subject to penalties for non-compliance, including forfeiture of their Passes, fines of up to RM 10,000 and imprisonment for up to five years.

Impact on employers

The new PLS@XPATS feature will enable impacted Malaysian employers to deploy eligible foreign nationals to the country quickly in certain cases of unplanned disruptions to their business and resume normal work routines in short time. It remains to be seen whether employers of PLS@XPATS holders will be eligible to receive tax benefits in the future.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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