



Mobility: Immigration alert

June 2022

China

PU letters no longer required for foreign assignees and their family members traveling to Shanghai

Executive summary

Foreign nationals who receive preliminary approval to work in Shanghai as well as their accompanying family members are no longer required to obtain Official Invitation (PU) letters prior to applying for work (Z) or family visit (S) visas. Individuals traveling for business to any region in China Mainland, including Shanghai, must still obtain a PU letter before applying for a business (M) visa.

Background

The Chinese government started requesting PU letters from individuals filing immigration applications (both primary applicants and dependent family members) in April 2020, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, to manage the entry of foreigners.

Key issues

On 6 June 2022, the authorities in Shanghai declared that the following categories of applicants are no longer required to obtain PU letters:

- ▶ Foreign nationals who receive approval to work in Shanghai (i.e., a work permit notification letter or valid work permit issued by the Shanghai Expert Bureau)
- ▶ Accompanying family members of foreign nationals who receive approval to work in Shanghai, including those who are already working in Shanghai

This measure has gone into effect in certain locations (e.g., Singapore, Italy, Canada, Korea, Australia, Japan, Germany) but has not yet been implemented by all Chinese embassies worldwide at the time of writing. Travelers can confirm their

specific requirements with the embassy in the location where they file their application.

The elimination of the requirement to submit PU letters in support of work (Z) and family visit (S) visa applications sponsored by entities in Shanghai is expected to reduce overall application processing times for impacted applicants (both primary and dependent) by up to two months.

Changshu City in Jiangsu Province has also stopped requiring PU letters from the aforementioned categories of applicants who are sponsored by entities in Changshu City. Additional locations in China Mainland are expected to announce similar measures in the near future.

While business visitors are still required to obtain PU letters prior to applying for a business (M) visa, irrespective of the location in China Mainland to which they are traveling, they are no longer required to submit their recent travel history when applying to obtain PU letters as of 6 June 2022.

Key steps

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

Ben Fan

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 8621 2228 2257
Email: ben.fan@cn.ey.com

Dienn Hu

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 8621 2228 3749
Email: dienn.hu@cn.ey.com

Carrie Yu

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 8621 2228 2354
Email: carrie.yu@cn.ey.com

Carey Yan

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: 15021033177
Email: carey.yan@cn.ey.com

Scott Li

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +86755 2591 4760
Email: scott.xf.li@cn.ey.com

Grace Song

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 8610 5913 5189
Email: grace.song@cn.ey.com

EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via ey.com/privacy. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

Ernst & Young LLP is a client-serving member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited operating in the US.

© 2022 Ernst & Young LLP.
All Rights Reserved.

EYG no. 005201-22Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

ey.com