

Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2022



Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia becomes a signatory to the Apostille Convention

Executive summary

Effective 7 December 2022, Saudi Arabia became a signatory to the Convention Abolishing the Requirements of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents (i.e., the Apostille Convention).

Background

The 1961 [Apostille Convention](#) enables a country that is a member of the Convention (i.e., Contracting Party) to authenticate documents issued in that country (e.g., birth certificates, marriage certificates and educational certificates) for use in all other Contracting Parties. As of December 2022, [122 countries](#) are Contracting Parties to the Convention. The legalization process, on the other hand, often involves multiple approvals and is time-consuming. Documents legalized by an embassy or a consulate of one country (e.g., Saudi Arabia) may only be used in that country (e.g., Saudi Arabia).

Key developments

Individuals seeking to authenticate documents issued in Saudi Arabia for use in Contracting Parties, and vice versa, can now submit apostilled documents in lieu of legalized documents in support of immigration applications (e.g., authorization to work, reside or study).

Impact on employers

Saudi Arabia's accession to the Apostille Convention is expected to enable Saudi employers to attract foreign talent more effectively from Contracting Parties, and vice versa, by streamlining the document procurement and authentication process related to immigration applications.

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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EYG no. 011227-22Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

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