

Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2022



China Mainland

China Mainland to lift additional COVID-19-related restrictions on 8 January 2023

Executive summary

Effective 8 January 2023, China Mainland will resume issuing Chinese passports and Exit-Entry Permits and reimplement the 24/72/144-hour visa-free transit policy, among other measures.

Background

The Chinese government began implementing travel restrictions in March 2020 to restrict the spread of COVID-19 and continued updating them as the pandemic evolved. In recent months, China Mainland has relaxed several restrictions, including [lifting the requirement](#) for inbound travelers to obtain PU letters prior to travel, [reopening borders](#) to certain travelers and [relaxing](#) and [eliminating](#) certain testing and other requirements.

Key developments

Effective 8 January 2023, China Mainland will resume:

- ▶ Processing applications for, and issuing, Chinese ordinary passports for the purpose of tourism and visiting friends and family abroad.
- ▶ Processing endorsements for Chinese Mainland residents to visit the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) for tourism and business purposes.
- ▶ Issuing People's Republic of China Exit-Entry Permits and Exit-Entry Permits for border control areas.
- ▶ Issuing port visas, re-implement the 24/72/144-hour visa-free transit policy and resume issuing Temporary Entry Permits in accordance with the law.

- ▶ Processing non-Chinese individuals' applications to: (1) extend, renew and re-issue Ordinary Visas, (2) issue, renew and re-issue Stay Permits, and (3) issue, extend, renew and re-issue Residence Permits. In urgent cases, individuals may apply for expedited processing of their applications.
- ▶ Expedited immigration inspections at fast channels in ports adjacent to the Hong Kong and Macao SARs for holders of Hong Kong and Macao Travel Permits for Mainland Residents and Mainland Travel Permits for Hong Kong and Macao Residents.

Impact on employers

These measures are expected to facilitate the deployment of Chinese employees to overseas entities and enable employers to expedite the hiring of non-Chinese individuals seeking to work in China Mainland.

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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