

Mobility: Immigration alert

February 2023



China Mainland

Resumption of visa issuance and 72/144-hour visa-free transit policy for South Korean nationals

Executive summary

Effective 18 February 2023, the Chinese authorities will resume the issuance of visas to South Korean nationals and lift the suspension on the 72/144-hour visa-free transit policy for these individuals.

Key developments

South Korean nationals can resume applying for visas at Chinese embassies and consulates globally from 18 February 2023. In addition, they can once again transit through certain Chinese airports without obtaining a visa, provided they remain in the jurisdiction for up to 72 or 144 hours and meet all [requirements](#).

On 10 January 2023, the Chinese authorities [suspended](#) the issuance of certain visas (e.g., visas for the purpose of business, tourism and transit) to South Korean nationals. They then suspended the 72/144-hour visa-free transit policy for these individuals on 12 January 2023.

Impact on employers

This development is expected to enable employers to resume the timely deployment of South Korean nationals to China Mainland for assignment, employment or short-term business purposes.

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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