

Mobility: Immigration alert

July 2023

Hong Kong

Exemption allowing applicants to file renewal applications from outside Hong Kong extended

Executive summary

On 29 June 2023, the Hong Kong Immigration Department (ImmD) extended the temporary exemption allowing eligible individuals to file extension applications from outside Hong Kong until 31 December 2023.

Background

In general, individuals who hold a valid Hong Kong visa or permit and seek to extend their visa or permit must be physically present in Hong Kong when filing extension applications and collecting their extended visa or permit. Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, in April 2022, the ImmD introduced a temporary exemption for certain individuals that enabled them to file extension applications from outside Hong Kong until 30 June 2023.

Key developments

Individuals who hold qualifying work, study or temporary residence visas and permits may now continue to file extension applications from outside Hong Kong until 31 December 2023, provided they submit a reason for being outside the jurisdiction at the time of filing. Effective 1 January 2024, these individuals will be required to be physically present in Hong Kong when filing extension applications and collecting their extended visas.

Impact on employers

This extension is expected to benefit employers by temporarily simplifying the process and reducing costs associated with extension 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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006704-23Gbl

2101-3682263
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