

Mobility: Immigration alert

July 2023

China Mainland

China Mainland resumes visa-free travel for nationals of Brunei and Singapore

Executive summary

Effective 26 July 2023, the Chinese authorities will reinstitute the 15-day visa free policy for nationals of Brunei and Singapore who hold ordinary passports and either enter China Mainland for business, tourism or family visits or transit via China Mainland.

Background

Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, nationals of Brunei, Japan and Singapore were eligible to transit through China Mainland or enter China Mainland without a visa for 15 days or less for business, tourism or family visits. On 28 March 2020, China Mainland suspended this visa-free policy.

Key developments

Effective 26 July 2023, nationals of Brunei and Singapore who hold ordinary passports and seek to transit through China Mainland or enter China Mainland for 15 days or less for business, tourism or family visits may do so without obtaining a visa. The suspension of the visa-free policy for Japanese nationals is expected to remain in place until further notice.

Nationals of Brunei and Singapore who obtained visas for the purposes of business, tourism, family visits or transit before 26 July 2023, or have an application in process, may use their visas to enter China Mainland.

Nationals of Brunei and Singapore who hold ordinary passports and seek to travel to China Mainland for more than 15 days for business, tourism, family visits or transit purposes, or for other purposes (e.g., employment, study), still require a visa prior to entry.

Impact on employers

The resumption of the visa-free policy is expected to provide greater flexibility and convenience to employers that send their employees to China Mainland for business purposes and simplify the immigration process for other categories of travelers.

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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