

Global Immigration alert

June 2025

Kuwait

New exit permit rule effective 1 July 2025

Executive summary

On 16 June 2025, the Kuwait Public Authority of Manpower announced that, effective 1 July 2025, all foreign nationals employed in the private sector must obtain an exit permit prior to departing Kuwait.

Key developments

The Public Authority of Manpower stated that foreign nationals require an exit permit prior to leaving the country, regardless of whether their departure is temporary or permanent. The new policy aims to regulate the departure of expatriate workers, ensure their compliance with legal regulations, protect the rights of employees and employers, and reduce violations associated with leaving the country without prior notice.

Exit requests must be submitted digitally via either the "Sahel" App (available in the Apple and Google Play stores) or the [website](#) of the Public Authority of Manpower no more than seven days prior to the foreign national's intended date of departure from Kuwait. Request approvals are contingent on the Public Authority of Manpower receiving consent from the foreign national's employer in Kuwait for them to depart the country.

Once approved, foreign nationals may access the exit permit via the Sahel app. Alternatively, employers may download the exit permit from the online portal of the Public Authority of Manpower and forward the same to the employee.

Impact on employers

Employers may communicate the change in policy to their impacted employees and update their internal processes to ensure compliance with the new requirement, and mitigate delays and business disruptions.

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. 005518-25GbI

2101-3682263
ED None

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