

Global Immigration alert

July 2025

Portugal

Portugal extends the validity of certain residence permits until 15 October 2025

Executive summary

The Portuguese government recently announced a series of legislative measures aimed at restructuring the national immigration framework. As part of these measures, Decree Law 85-B/2025 was published on 30 June 2025. The Decree Law extends the validity of certain residence permits and allows holders of expired permits to continue residing and working in Portugal legally until 15 October 2025.

Background

On March 2020, the Portuguese authorities approved the Decree-Law 10-A/2020, which extended the validity of all permits and visas that expired on or after 13 March 2020 "or in the 15 days immediately prior to that date" to 30 June 2020. The validity of these documents was subsequently extended several times, with the last extension until 30 June 2025. These extensions aim to support individuals who were facing delays with renewing their residence permits following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restructuring of the Immigration and Border Services which ultimately led to the creation of the new Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum (AIMA). This new extension seeks to protect holders of impacted permits from having a gap in their residency in Portugal.

Key developments

Decree Law 85-B/2025 establishes that all residence permits that are set to expire on 30 June 2025 are now extended and considered valid under the same terms until 15 October 2025. After 15 October 2025, residence permits will remain valid for up to 180 days after the stated expiration date, provided the holder presents proof of payment for the renewal application. This extension allows for government processing of the renewal

application without a limit on validity during this period. However, this legislative change only applies within Portugal, and foreign jurisdictions are not bound by this decree and may not recognize the validity of these permits. Consequently, holding an expired Portuguese permit may not allow travel within the Schengen Area or the European Union and impacted individuals may be required to obtain a Schengen visa or other documents to facilitate their travel.

On 2 July 2025, the immigration authorities announced that two online mechanisms will be available for the renewal of residence permits. To expedite the adjudication of all pending renewal processes and reduce the backlog that the authorities have been facing in the past months, AIMA has incorporated the "Mission Structure (Estrutura de Missão)" to assist with the processing of these applications. According to AIMA, the renewal process will be as follows:

- *Residence permits that expired on or before 30 June 2025:* Applicants will have received notifications via email from the "Mission Structure (Estrutura de Missão)." Upon receiving the notification, they are required to access the [AIMA platform](#) to validate their credentials. Once validated, applicants will need to request the issuance of a DUC (i.e., payment details of a governmental fee) on the same platform and pay the fee within 10 business days of its issuance. They will then receive confirmation of the payment. If necessary, applicants will receive an email requiring an in-person appointment for the collection of biometric data or the presentation of a new passport. To benefit from this process, applicants will need to ensure that their tax



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and contributory status is regularized (i.e., in compliance with local requirements).

- *Residence permits expiring after 30 June 2025:* Applicants need to submit their renewal requests directly through the Renewals Portal, which will be available in the coming weeks. Applicants will need to ensure that their tax and contributory status is duly regularized. Additionally, applicants will be required to pay the government fee in advance and upload digital copies of required documents. AIMA will analyze all the submitted documentation, conduct searches into applicants' Portuguese criminal records (where applicable) and verify that the applicants meet the conditions for subsistence in the country. Notifications regarding the collection of biometric details at an AIMA delegation will be sent via the Renewals Portal only if necessary for biometric data collection or if the applicant is required to present a new passport.

Impact on employers

Employers are expected to benefit from this extension, as impacted individuals will be able to work and reside legally in Portugal until 15 October 2025.

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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