

Global Immigration alert

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Vietnam

Vietnam implements the Apostille Convention effective 11 September 2026

Executive summary

Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued Official Letter 7751/BNG-LS on 3 September 2026, providing implementation guidance for the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents (the "Apostille Convention"), which entered into force in Vietnam on 11 September 2026.

The new framework is expected to simplify the use of public documents between Vietnam and jurisdictions that maintain an Apostille relationship with Vietnam by eliminating consular legalization requirements in eligible cases.

Background

On 23 July 2026, Vietnam [issued](#) Decree No. 293/2026/ND-CP, which provided guidance on the implementation of the "Apostille Convention". The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has now published further guidance clarifying how Vietnamese authorities will accept and verify Apostilled documents following the Convention's entry into force on 11 September 2026.

Key developments

Key developments include:

- **Consular legalization no longer required for Apostilled documents:** From 11 September 2026, public documents issued in jurisdictions that maintain an Apostille relationship with Vietnam and bear a valid Apostille certificate will be accepted in Vietnam without the need for consular legalization.
- **Vietnamese translation requirements remain unchanged:** Where Vietnamese law requires documents to be in Vietnamese or accompanied by a Vietnamese translation, Apostilled documents must still be translated and notarized/certified in accordance with applicable regulations.
- **Grounds for rejection:** Vietnamese authorities may refuse to accept documents where:
 - The Apostille certificate cannot be verified.
 - The Apostille certificate is suspected to be forged, invalid or otherwise noncompliant.
 - The document originates from a jurisdiction that does not have an Apostille relationship with Vietnam.

- **Verification mechanism:** Where verification of an Apostille certificate or related documents is required, the receiving authority may contact the following designated competent authority:
 - The Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for provinces and cities from Hue northwards; and
 - Ho Chi Minh City Department of External Relations for provinces and cities from Da Nang and Quang Nam southwards.

For countries that are not parties to the Apostille Convention, or where the Convention does not apply in relation to Vietnam, consular certification and legalization procedures will continue to apply.

Applications for an Apostille certificate may be submitted in person through the single-window unit, by post or online. Processing times generally range from one to four working days and may be extended to up to 10 working days where verification is required or a large number of documents is submitted.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to publish updates on the Apostille implementation and verification procedures through its dedicated Apostille portal. Businesses and individuals should review their current document legalization processes and prepare for the transition from consular legalization to the Apostille regime, where applicable.

Impact on employers

Employers may benefit from a simpler document authentication process for foreign nationals applying for work permits, visas and other immigration permissions in Vietnam. For documents issued in countries that maintain an Apostille relationship with Vietnam, the new framework may reduce administrative requirements and document preparation timelines. Employers should review their document procedures to ensure compliance with the new requirements and any future guidance.

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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