

Global Immigration alert

September 2026

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Chinese Mainland

Chinese Mainland introduces new exit and entry management regulations

Executive summary

Effective 15 September 2026, the State Council's latest regulations on exit and entry management entered into force. The regulations expand the circumstances under which individuals may face restrictions on exiting or entering the Chinese Mainland, introduce stricter compliance requirements for applicants and intermediary agencies, and establish a framework for travel risk warnings and safety reminders.

Key developments

The regulations introduce the following changes:

- **Expanded exit and entry restrictions.** The regulations expand the circumstances under which Chinese nationals may be restricted from exiting the Chinese Mainland and foreign nationals may be denied entry.

Chinese nationals may be restricted from exiting the Chinese Mainland in the following circumstances:

- *Administrative detention for fraudulently obtaining documents or engaging in illegal exit or entry activities:* prohibited from exiting the Chinese Mainland for six months to three years
- *Engaging in criminal activities abroad that endanger national security:* prohibited from exiting the Chinese Mainland for six months to three years as determined by provincial governments
- *Violating export control or technology transfer regulations that endanger industrial or technical security:* directly prohibited from exiting the Chinese Mainland as determined by the Ministry of Commerce and relevant departments

Foreign nationals may be denied entry into the Chinese Mainland in the following circumstances:

- *Providing false materials when applying for a visa or entering the Chinese Mainland:* prohibited from entering for one to five years

- *Receiving criminal penalties for obstructing border management, or administrative penalties for fraudulently obtaining documents or illegal exit or entry activities:* prohibited from entering the Chinese Mainland for one to five years
- *Being listed on government countermeasure lists, unreliable entity lists or similar government-maintained lists:* prohibited from entering the Chinese Mainland in accordance with the law
- **Stricter compliance requirements for applicants and intermediary agencies.** The regulations introduce additional requirements intended to reduce the use of false application materials and increase oversight of intermediary service providers.
 - Applicants must provide truthful and legitimate reasons for their application, together with supporting materials. Individuals who provide false materials or make false statements may have their application denied or be barred from exit or entry.
 - Exit and entry intermediary agencies and personnel must register with the immigration management authority within 15 days of establishment, or within 90 days after the regulations entered into force.
- **Travel risk warnings and safety reminders.** The regulations establish a framework for government authorities to issue travel risk warnings and safety reminders.
 - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and diplomatic missions abroad may issue safety reminders and travel risk warnings based on situations such as war, epidemics and public security concerns.
 - Immigration management authorities may remind individuals to exercise caution when traveling to destinations for which travel risk warnings or safety reminders have been issued. Where risk levels are considered particularly high, authorities may discourage travel, where deemed necessary.

Impact on employers

Employers whose employees work with core technologies, sensitive data, national defense-related activities or export-controlled items should be aware of the expanded exit restriction measures. Employees who violate export control regulations or engage in activities deemed to endanger national security may face long-term restrictions on exiting the Chinese Mainland, which could affect international assignments and business travel.

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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