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flash Alert

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Cyprus – Biometric Data, New Procedures Required of Third Country Nationals

by KPMG Limited, Nicosia
(KPMG Limited in Cyprus is a KPMG International member firm)

The Civil Registry and Migration Department of Cyprus is implementing important changes for third country nationals that reside in or will enter Cyprus for employment purposes.

Cyprus' immigration legislation has been recently amended¹ and now requires that third country nationals working for companies in Cyprus must provide biometric data within seven (7) days of their arrival in Cyprus.

Why This Matters

The application process for moving into and working in Cyprus now requires that third country national employees physically attend an appointment at the Cypriot Immigration office in order to provide their biometric data (fingerprints and photograph) and signature.

Companies' HR departments and those responsible for facilitating the movement of third country nationals into Cyprus and their employment status in the country should review their current processes and consider issuing appropriate communications and making adjustments to policies and procedures in light of the changes described in this newsletter.

Background

In 2008, EU Regulation 380/2008 came into force², requiring all non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals working in the European Union (EU) to hold a residence permit containing certain biometric information. The information required includes a photograph and fingerprints. This provision has now been adopted in Cyprus' Aliens and Immigration Law.

New Process

When submitting an application to the Civil Registry and Migration Department of Cyprus, the physical presence of the third country national is required in order to provide his/her biometric data as well as her or his signature. If the application is submitted for an entry permit, then following the granting of the permit and the arrival of the third country national in Cyprus, the applicant must register at the Migration Department in Nicosia or at the district Immigration Unit where she or he resides, within seven (7) days of arrival in Cyprus. It should be noted that the captured fingerprints are deleted from the Aliens' Register within 48 hours after the issuance of the residence permit.

Third country nationals with work and temporary residence permits issued under the previous legislation will not be affected by the new rules and their permits will remain valid until their expiry; however, once their current permits expire and a renewal is requested, each third country national is obliged to comply with the new rules and provide her or his biometric data to the Civil Registry and Migration Department of Cyprus.

KPMG Note

HR departments and international assignment program managers should review their third-country national employees with plans to travel to and work in Cyprus as well as their assignee population currently in Cyprus with soon-to-expire permits to make sure they receive relevant communications and understand the new process, and are in possession of the proper residence and work permits. Furthermore, they should familiarize themselves with the new rules in respect of providing the biometric data of third country employees to the Civil Registry and Migration Department of Cyprus to help ensure they are in compliance.

Footnotes:

1 Announcement made by the Cyprus Immigration Authorities:

[http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/CRMD/crmd.nsf/All/E9ACF9F2067F527EC2257D2C00396628/\\$file/ANNOUNCEMENT%20FOR%20BCS_EN.pdf](http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/CRMD/crmd.nsf/All/E9ACF9F2067F527EC2257D2C00396628/$file/ANNOUNCEMENT%20FOR%20BCS_EN.pdf) .

2 Council Regulation (EC) No 380/2008 of 18 April 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008R0380>.

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For additional information or assistance, please contact your local Global Mobility Services (GMS) or People Services practice professional or one of the following professionals with the KPMG International member firm in Cyprus:

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The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in Cyprus. The information contained herein is of a general nature and based on authorities that are subject to change. Applicability of the information to specific situations should be determined through consultation with your tax adviser.

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