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# flash Alert

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## Italy – Starting January 1 New Quota Rules for Issuance of Work Permits

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On 29 December 2014, Italy enacted its annual decree setting out quotas that apply in respect of the number of foreign workers in Italy under various categories. The decree – known as the *Decreto Flussi*<sup>1</sup> – explains in detail the limits for each category of worker/citizen permitted to enter with a relevant work permit, the timing for the submission of the work permit request, and how to apply for the relevant work permit. All application forms must be presented in Italian.

For coverage of last year's quotas, see *Flash International Executive Alert 2014-015* (5 February 2014).

### Why This Matters

In order to be employed in Italy, foreign citizens have to apply for a work permit.<sup>2</sup> Every year, the Italian labor authorities establish the number of work permits available. Work visas are issued under the quota system and are therefore released in a pre-determined number, set out in the decree.

It is important that immigration and global mobility professionals with workers destined for Italy in 2015 are aware of the terms of the decree, which sets out the framework, practices, and rules for the issuance of work permits to foreigners. Please note that temporary assignments (more than three months and up to two years (or in some instances, five years)), depending on the terms and type of assignment, are not included under the quota system. They are authorized according to Italian immigration rules following specific procedures.

### Background

For further background on Italy's labor market policies and quotas, see *Flash International Executive Alert 2014-015* (5 February 2014).

### Quotas and Categories of Workers Covered by *Decreto Flussi*

The decree enacted on 29 December 2014, specifies that 17,850 foreign workers are allowed to enter into Italy, effective from 1 January 2015, for reasons of non-seasonal employment and self-employment.

This number includes the share of 2,000 units\* provided in relation to EXPO Milan 2015.

\* A unit = one person

### ***Non-Seasonal Autonomous Workers***

The decree provides for 2,400 units allocated for foreign citizens who belong to the following categories:

- Entrepreneurs who carry out activities in connection with the Italian economy;
- Self-employed workers belonging to a professional register or enrolled on public administration lists;
- Non-cooperative company professional stakeholders (this refers to someone who has a corporate role);
- Highly qualified artists or those of international renown;
- Foreign citizens who want to start up a company in Italy.

### ***Conversion of Permits for Subordinate and Autonomous Workers***

The term 'subordinate' refers to an employee and the term 'autonomous' refers to a self-employed individual.

#### **Subordinate Workers Conversion**

- 6,000 study or vocational training permits to stay can be converted into subordinate workers' permits (*permesso di soggiorno per lavoro subordinato*).
- 4,050 seasonal permits to stay can be converted into subordinate workers' permits.
- 1,000 European long-stay permits can be converted into subordinate workers' permits.

#### **Autonomous Workers Conversion**

- 1,050 study or vocational training permits to stay can be converted into autonomous workers' permits (*permesso di soggiorno per lavoro autonomo*).
- 250 European long-stay permits to stay can be converted into autonomous workers' permits.

### ***Training***

1,000 foreign citizens who have a diploma obtained abroad may be allowed to enter. There is also an additional quota of 100 units for autonomous workers or subordinates who live in Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela, or Brazil and are of Italian origin.

### *Footnotes:*

1 The new *Decreto Flussi* was published in *Gazzetta Ufficiale* (the Italian government's official gazette) on 29 December 2014. For the *Decreto Flussi* (in Italian) see:  
<http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2014/12/29/14A09970/sg>.

2 It is authorized by means of a "nulla osta" from the "Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione" in Italy. The "permesso di soggiorno" (a residence permit) is also required for workers to work and stay in Italy.

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\* Please note that KPMG LLP (U.S.) does not provide immigration services.

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