

GMS Flash Alert

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The Netherlands – Extended Transitional Period for Japanese Nationals Requiring Work Permits

We recently reported that Japanese nationals will no longer have free access to the Dutch labor market. In response to various signals coming from the business sector, however, the Dutch authorities have decided to extend the transitional period until January 1, 2017, at which time, Japanese nationals will have to fulfill a work permit obligation.¹

WHY THIS MATTERS

Employers with Japanese nationals coming to the Netherlands to work will now have a little more time to get their documentation and procedures in place to make the necessary work permit applications.

Background

The Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service had previously confirmed that as of October 1, 2016, Japanese citizens would no longer have unrestricted access to the Dutch labor market and therefore would once again need a work permit (for prior coverage, see [GMS Flash Alert 2016-072](#) (27 June 2016)).

Extended Transitional Period

The work permit obligation for Japanese citizens will apply as of **January 1, 2017** and not from October 1, 2016, as originally planned according to the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service.

During the transitional period, Japanese citizens who are in possession of a residence permit with the labor market endorsement "Work freely permitted, work permit not required" ("*Arbeid vrij toegestaan, TWV niet vereist*") may retain this permit as long as it is still valid. A renewal or a new application for a residence permit on or after January 1, 2017, in principle, however, will be subject to review under the Foreign Nationals Employment Act.

KPMG NOTE

This appears to be the final change to be made to the work permit requirement for Japanese citizens.

FOOTNOTE:

1 See the announcement (in Dutch) on the Web page for the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (Immigratie en Naturalisatiedienst or "IND") at: <https://www.ind.nl/organisatie/nieuws/Paginas/Japanners-per-1-januari-2017-niet-langer-vrij-op-de-arbeidsmarkt.aspx> .

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<p>This article is excerpted, with permission, from "Compulsory Work Permit for Japanese Citizens Postponed Until January 1, 2017," published by the KPMG International member firm in the Netherlands.</p>

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