

GMS Flash Alert

2016-122 | October 31, 2016



United States – Immigration Authorities Announce Fee Increases

Effective December 23, 2016, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) will be amending its fee schedule for immigration and naturalization benefit requests.¹ According to the final rule² published in the Federal Register on October 24, 2016, fees will increase for the first time in six years by a weighted average of 21 percent for most applications and petitions.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The increase in fees for U.S. immigration and naturalization benefit requests will add an additional cost to businesses that wish to move their global workforce to the United States. This increase has the potential to hit global mobility budgets within a short timeframe. Employees and individuals transferring to the United States, and their global mobility and immigration advisers should factor in these new costs when planning their moves and assignments to the United States.

Context

The fees paid by applicants and petitioners help fund USCIS. As a result, the fee increase is necessary, according to DHS, to recover the full cost of services provided by USCIS. Such services include:

- fraud detection and national security;
- customer service and case processing; and
- providing services without charge to refugee and asylum applicants and to other customers eligible for fee waivers or exemptions.

Fee Changes

The chart below lists the current and the new USCIS fees for the most common non-immigrant and immigrant applications and petitions. Applications and petitions postmarked or filed on or after December 23, 2016, must include the new fee.

Form	Current Fee Effective through December 22, 2016	New Fee Effective December 23, 2016	Fee Increase of:
I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker	\$325	\$460	\$135
I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status	\$290	\$370	\$80
I-130, Petition for Alien Relative	\$420	\$535	\$115
I-140, Petition for Immigration Worker	\$580	\$700	\$120
I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status *Including the cost of ancillary Forms I-765 and I-131	\$985*	\$1,140*	\$155
I-765, Application for Employment Authorization	\$380	\$410	\$30
I-131, Application for Travel Document	\$360	\$575	\$215
I-751, Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence	\$505	\$595	\$90
I-90 Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card	\$365	\$455	\$90
N-400, Application for Naturalization *Certain low-income naturalization applicants may pay a filing fee of \$320.	\$595	\$640*	\$45
Biometric Service Fee (Capturing, processing, and storing biometric information)	\$85	\$85	\$0

Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

For more details regarding fees, see the following USCIS Web page: <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/our-fees> .

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 See the October 24, 2016 news release “[USCIS Announces Final Rule Adjusting Immigration Benefit Application and Petition Fees](#)” on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security website.
- 2 See the chart called “[Our Fees](#)” on the USCIS website .

New Back to Basics: Business Immigration 101

We are pleased to announce the publication of “[Back to Basics: Business Immigration 101](#),” the fifth installment of our Back to Basics thought leadership series!

Global mobility program managers often have the responsibility of managing the many complexities of immigration globally in support of both employee service delivery as well as compliance goals. The severity of potential risks and resulting liabilities necessitate a solid operational framework by organizations for immigration compliance, administration, and service delivery. This newest issue of Back to Basics has been developed to serve as an introduction to understanding key definitions and concepts associated with global business immigration. We also highlight certain leading practices in immigration program management.

We have created [a page on the KPMG TaxWatch Web site](#) for the other articles in the GMS practice’s Back to Basics series. This current article as well as past articles (covering home leave, repatriation, short-term assignments, and assignment letters) are in .pdf format on the TaxWatch site.

Contact us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional* or the following professional with the KPMG International member firm in Canada:

Charlene Quincey

U.S. Immigration Practice Leader
KPMG Law LLP – Tax + Immigration,
Canada
Tel. +1-416-943-0288 x266
cquincey@kpmglaw.ca

** Please note that KPMG LLP (U.S.) does not provide any immigration services. However, KPMG LLP Law in Canada can assist clients with U.S. immigration matters.*

The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in Canada.

© 2016 KPMG Law LLP, a tax and immigration law firm affiliated with KPMG LLP, each of which is a Canadian limited liability partnership. KPMG LLP is a Canadian limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved.

www.kpmg.com

kpmg.com/socialmedia



The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International.

The KPMG logo and name are trademarks of KPMG International. KPMG International is a Swiss cooperative that serves as a coordinating entity for a network of independent member firms. KPMG International provides no audit or other client services. Such services are provided solely by member firms in their respective geographic areas. KPMG International and its member firms are legally distinct and separate entities. They are not and nothing contained herein shall be construed to place these entities in the relationship of parents, subsidiaries, agents, partners, or joint venturers. No member firm has any authority (actual, apparent, implied or otherwise) to obligate or bind KPMG International or any member firm in any manner whatsoever. The information contained in herein is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. Although we endeavor to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No one should act on such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation.

Flash Alert is a GMS publication of KPMG LLP's Washington National Tax practice. To view this publication or recent prior issues online, please click [here](#). To learn more about our GMS practice, please visit us on the Internet: click [here](#) or go to <http://www.kpmg.com>.

© 2016 KPMG LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and the U.S. member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. NDPPS 530159