

GMS Flash Alert

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Oman – Increase in Visa Fees

Oman's Ministry of Manpower increased the fees payable by employers to obtain/renew visas for their expatriate workers coming to Oman by 50 percent from OMR 201 (US\$ 523) to OMR 301 (US\$ 783) with effect from 7 November 2016.¹

WHY THIS MATTERS

Employees taking an international assignment in Oman, their international HR or global mobility managers, and qualified immigration advisers should take note of the changes in visa-related fees. This fee increase is significant and represents an additional cost to businesses that wish to move their workers to Oman. The increase has the potential to hit global mobility budgets at short notice.

Change in Visa-Related Fees for Expatriate Workers

Employment visas issued to expatriates are valid for two years and have to be renewed thereafter. The fees for a new visa or renewing an existing visa have been increased by 50 percent from OMR 201 (US\$ 523) to OMR 301 (US\$ 783). An employer of expatriates will be liable to pay a fine of OMR 10 (US\$ 26) per month per expatriate for any delay in renewing their employment visas.

Variable Fees for Temporary Hires

Employers have also been permitted to temporarily hire expatriates at a lower visa cost as shown in the table on the next page.

| Duration of the visa | Visa fees |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 4 months | OMR 60 (US\$ 156) |
| 6 months | OMR 90 (US\$ 234) |
| 9 months | OMR 135 (US\$ 351) |

Visa-Related Fees for Domestic Workers and Farm Workers

The fees payable by employers of domestic workers and farm workers have also increased as follows:

Domestic Workers

| | |
|--|--|
| Employing / renewing visas of up to 3 domestic workers | OMR 141 (US\$ 367) per domestic worker |
| Employing more than 3 domestic workers | OMR 241 (US\$ 627) per incremental domestic worker |
| Renewing the visas of 4 or more domestic workers | OMR 241 (US\$ 627) per domestic worker (and not just incremental domestic workers) |

Farm Workers

| | |
|--|--|
| Employing / renewing visas of up to 3 farm workers | OMR 201 (US\$ 523) per farm worker |
| Employing more than 3 farm workers | OMR 301 (US\$ 783) per incremental farm worker |
| Renewing the visas of 4 or more farm workers | OMR 241 (US\$ 627) per farm worker (and not just incremental farm workers) |

Payment and Refund of Visa Fees Possible in Certain Cases

While the fees mentioned above have to be settled in advance and are non-refundable, the next-of-kin of employers are entitled to a full refund of the visa application fees paid for domestic workers and their equivalent if the employer dies without utilizing the visa.

KPMG NOTE

The Oman government, as a part of its efforts to mobilize non-oil revenue in the aftermath of dwindling oil income has:

- proposed a string of amendments to the income tax law,
- increased the registration fees payable on real estate transactions, and

- attempted to tap miscellaneous sources of income like raising parking charges, traffic fines, etc.

An increase in the employment visa fees is in line with recent policies and approaches aimed at finding additional sources of revenue.

FOOTNOTE:

1 Ministerial Decision No. 340/2016 dated 6 November 2016 concerning the fees for issuing and renewing licenses for the recruitment of non-Omani manpower and the work that it performs.

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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

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** Please note that the KPMG International member firm in the United States does not provide immigration services.*

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

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