



# GMS Flash Alert

## Immigration Edition

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## Belgium – New Salary Criteria for 2018

From 1 January 2018, the salary criteria for the Belgian work permit type B and the European Union (EU) Blue Card will increase (yearly indexation).<sup>1</sup> The salary requirements for the Belgian work permit type B will be increased to EUR 40,972 for highly skilled personnel and EUR 68,356 for personnel in a management position. The threshold for the EU Blue Card has been set at EUR 52,978 from 1 January 2018. (For coverage of last year's requirements, see [GMS \*Flash Alert\* 2016-134](#), 18 November 2016.)

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### WHY THIS MATTERS

The Belgian national immigration authorities will only grant a Belgian work permit type B or an EU Blue Card if the respective salary requirements are complied with. Therefore the salary thresholds will have to be taken into account by companies planning to employ personnel in Belgium under the Belgian work permit type B or EU Blue Card rules.

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### Context

All non-European Economic Area (EEA) or Swiss nationals performing professional activities for their employers in Belgium, have to be in possession of a Belgian work permit or an EU Blue card prior to the start of their professional activities in Belgium.

According to Belgian legislation, very specific conditions apply for obtaining a Belgian work permit type B. These conditions can be rather difficult to comply with. However, exceptions apply for specific categories of personnel. Amongst these exceptions, two categories are frequently used by companies active in Belgium, i.e., the category of "highly skilled personnel" and the category for "personnel in a management position." In order to qualify as highly skilled personnel/personnel with a management position, certain conditions have to be met, such as the worker concerned must earn at least a certain annual salary. These thresholds are indexed yearly; from 1 January 2018, they will amount to EUR 40,972 (highly skilled personnel) and EUR 68,356 (personnel in a management position).

## FOOTNOTE:

1 Information received (that is not confidential or proprietary) by means of informal communications to professionals with the KPMG International member firm in Belgium by the Belgian competent authorities. The Royal Decree is not published yet, but is expected to be published prior to 1 January 2018.

\* \* \* \*

EUR 1 = USD 1.164  
EUR 1 = GBP 0.877  
EUR 1 = JPY 132.337  
EUR 1 = CAD 1.50  
EUR 1 = CNY 7.72

## Contact us

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

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

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