

TAX FLASH NEWS

Government of India starts issuing OCI cards in lieu of PIO cards

Background

The Government of India merged the Person of Indian (PIO) card and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card schemes through the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015.

Under the new regime PIO card holders are deemed to be OCI card holders and are entitled to benefits such as life long visa and exemption from police registration.

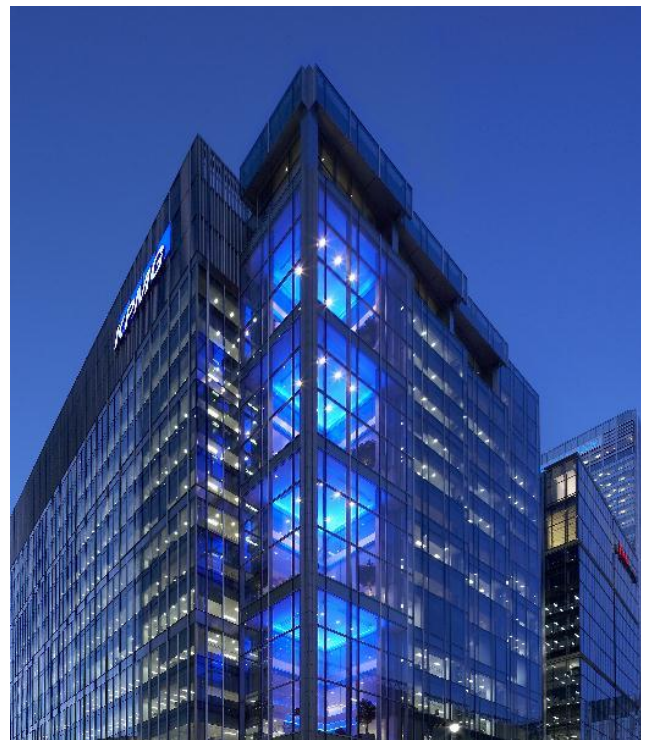
The government has now mandated¹ all PIO cardholders to apply for OCI cards in lieu of their existing PIO cards.

Key Features

- The application for an OCI card in lieu of a PIO card needs to be submitted with the Indian Embassy / Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO) which originally issued the PIO card to the applicant.
- The OCI card in lieu of the PIO card would be granted if the PIO card was valid on 9 January 2015.
- The OCI card will be issued free of cost to all existing PIO cardholders.

Our comments

The release of clarification on conversion of a PIO card to an OCI card is a welcome step which has brought clarity on the action to be taken by PIO card holders to obtain their OCI cards.



¹ <http://passport.gov.in/oci/captchaActionPIO>

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