

GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

June 2020

As of 4 June 2020, Vietnam's Ministry of Health informed that there remained 328 confirmed cases of Covid-19. However, 302 of the positive cases have recovered and were discharged from hospitals. Vietnamese air flight carriers also resumed domestic operations but no date has been set to resume normal international operations. Further, through Resolution No.79/NQ-CP, Vietnam will grant e-visa to citizens of 80 countries from 1 July 2020 (subject to the COVID restrictions in place). While there are many positive signs relating to the Covid-19 situation in Vietnam, Vietnam has not opened its borders for foreign visitors due to the pandemic.

To dampen the economic impact, the Government recently introduced multiple incentives in the form of tax, insurance, land-use fee deferment, interest rates cut to affected local businesses. Further, some travel bans are considering to loosen in support for the business continuance of the Foreign Directed Invested ("FDI") projects in Vietnam. Specifically, per Notification No.182/TB-VPCP dated 15 May 2020 of the Government office ("Notification No.182"), the Office has ordered the relevant authorities to facilitate the entry of investors, technical experts, high-skilled workers, business managers, officers and foreign students studying in Vietnam.

Official Letter No. 2847/CV-BCD dated 23 May 2020

Following Notification No.182, the National Steering Committee for COVID-19 Prevention and Control issued Official Letter No. 2847/CV-BCD dated 23 May 2020 ("OL2847") to Heads of Provincial and City's People Committee which specifies procedures to support foreigners being investors, technical experts, highly skilled workers and business managers (" here-in-after called foreign experts") to enter Vietnam to work as well as necessary preventive measures to prevent Covid-19 upon the foreigners' entry to Vietnam, specifically:

- Based on the needs of the organizations located in the relevant provinces/cities, the provincial People Committee to decide the list of foreign experts to enter Vietnam and send the list to the Ministry of National Defense (Immigration Department) for process
- The People Committee to choose suitable isolated quarantine facilities in its areas following guidance of Decision No.878/QD-BYT dated 12 March 2020 on centralized quarantined areas and Decision No.1246/QD-BYT dated 20 March 2020 on quarantine at hotels at the foreigners' own cost;
- The foreign experts must be subject to 14 days compulsory quarantine and must undergo Covid-19 testing twice during the quarantine period. After the compulsory quarantine period, they are also subject to medical surveillance for another 14 days.

Accordingly, the sponsoring organizations need to follow the following procedures for entry approval:

- The sponsoring organization of the foreigners needs to submit a request letter to the Provincial People's Committee where the sponsoring organization is located.
- In addition to the list of the foreigners who are being requested entry approval, the letter must also provide a detailed plan regarding transportation options, and quarantine measures.
- After reviewing the request letter, the Provincial People's Committee will make a decision and submit the approved list of the foreigners to the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Public Security.
- If approved, the sponsoring organization also needs to submit a request dossier to the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Public Security for entry approval and visa issuance (if the visa is not available).

Specific guidance for entry in Hanoi

- The Hanoi People Committee will receive the application dossier for foreign experts arriving in Vietnam and taking compulsory quarantine in Hanoi. In addition to the request letter, the sponsoring organisations must submit two lists of foreign experts, one for those with valid work permit, visa/temporary resident cards and one for those without the above documents.
- After considering and approving the application dossier, the list of foreign experts accepted to enter Vietnam will be transferred to the Immigration Department for visa issuance (if required) and entry permit.
- In parallel with working with the Immigration Department on entry approval and visa issuance for the foreign experts, the sponsoring organisations are required to work with the Hanoi Department of Health on quarantine procedures and hotel booking for 14 compulsory quarantine days at foreign experts/sponsoring organization's cost.
- Currently, the following hotels are chosen for 14 days compulsory quarantine to prevent Covid-19
 - InterContinental Hanoi Westlake: confirmed
 - Hoa Binh Hanoi Hotel: confirmed
 - Muong Thanh Grand Hanoi Hotel: in process to confirm with Hanoi People Committee on conditions for isolation

Specific guidance for entry in HCMC/ Official letter No.13413/SLDTBXH-VLATLD

According to the Official letter No.13413/SLDTBXH-VLATLD dated 29 May 2020, the HCMC DOLISA requests sponsoring organizations to send a request with a list of foreign experts they would want to send to HCMC by 8 June 2020 such that the DOLISA can gather information and submit to the HCMC People Committee for consideration and approval.

* Given that the Government might change its immigration policies constantly, please contact KPMG frequently for latest update.

If your organisations would like KPMG's assistance on the above procedure, please contact our office.

Contact us

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