

Alert on immigration

July 2020

To dampen the economic impact while remaining safe from the second wave of Covid-19, which is very complicated worldwide, Vietnam has issued a number of guidance and certain measures to stimulate economic growth, including facilitating the entry of foreign investors, technical experts, high-skilled workers, business managers, officers (so called “ foreign experts”) to work in Vietnam. While allowing foreign experts to enter Vietnam, the Government has observed that the number of foreign investors, experts, highly skilled workers and managers who are positive with Covid-19 upon entering Vietnam has increased. Therefore, on 24th July 2020 the National Steering Committee on preventing and combating Covid-19 issued the Official letter No.3949/CV-BCD on improving the effectiveness in preventing and combating Covid-19 when receiving foreign experts into Vietnam. There are certain highlights in the letter affecting the application for entry for foreign experts as follows:



- The foreign experts must undertake a Covid-19 test by Real time -PCR within 03 to 07 days before entering to Vietnam and are negative to the pandemic. The test must be taken in laboratories approved by the Governments or the laboratories of World Health Organisation in those foreign countries;
- The foreign experts must hold a valid international insurance coverage or the sponsoring organisation must commit to pay all medical expenses for the foreign experts if the experts are positive to the pandemic;
- The sponsoring organizations must arrange necessary facilities to prevent Covid-19 and complete necessary approval procedures when inviting the foreign experts to enter Vietnam to work;
- Guidance in the Official letter 2487/CV-BCD dated 23 May 2020 are is still applicable on facilitating the approval procedures for foreign experts to work in Vietnam
- The Official letter No.3949 is not applicable for foreign experts holding a valid flight tickets and entering Vietnam before 5 August 2020.

KPMG Notes

Based on the Official letter No. 3949, it is expected that the competent authorities will be stricter in reviewing the application for entry approval for foreign experts. Specifically, international insurance contracts of the individual foreign expert or the sponsoring Companies' commitment to pay Covid-19 treatment expenses in the case where the employees contract the virus are expected to be further required on new application/current application. Further, a Covid -19 test certificate with a negative result shall be required before boarding. It is expected that the competent authorities shall provide further guidance in the coming days to reflect the requirements in the Official letter No. 3949.

Due to the recent surge of community transmission of Covid-19 in Danang after 99 days in a row, it is likely that the Government's plan on re-opening international flight will change. Companies are advised to stay up to date on the possible changes on immigration requirements due to the above situation and reach out to their respective embassy in Vietnam as well as airlines to explore possible options.

Contact us

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