



GMS Flash Alert



Flash Alert

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Flash Alerts	
Australia	<p>Bill Could Heighten ATO Powers over Employers' Superannuation Compliance</p> <p>Australia's federal government has released Exposure Draft Treasury Laws Amendment (Taxation and Superannuation Guarantee Integrity Measures) Bill 2018 to strengthen the integrity of Australia's system for mandatory employer superannuation contributions. If enacted, the legislation would provide the Australian Taxation Office with additional powers aimed at fostering employer compliance.</p>
Belgium	<p>New Tax on Resident and Nonresident Individuals' Securities Accounts</p> <p>On February 1, 2018, the Belgian Parliament passed legislation introducing an annual (wealth) tax at a rate of 0.15 percent on the value of certain securities accounts of individuals (both Belgian tax residents and nonresidents). The tax will apply to the total average value of securities accounts if their value is EUR 500,000 or more, per account-holder. Once the law is published, it is expected to be effective by reference to a taxable period ending September 30, 2018.</p>
Belgium	<p>Transactions with Non-Belgian Brokers Subject to Financial Transaction Tax</p> <p>Belgium's Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) for the sale or purchase of shares and warrants is increased from 0.27 percent to</p>

	<p>0.35 percent as from January 8, 2018. When designing, implementing and executing equity-based compensation plans for Belgian employees and directors, the Belgian FTT should be taken into account, given that the FTT represents an additional cost and administrative burden for the employee and the employer.</p>
Canada	<p><u>Update on U.S. and Canadian Immigration, Invitation to Seminar/Webinar</u></p> <p>Canadian and U.S. immigration policies have experienced frequent and important changes in recent months. KPMG Law LLP will be holding a Webinar/Seminar on March 1 on some of these changes and other developments.</p>
France	<p><u>Moves Afoot to Exempt Inbound Executives from French Pension Contributions</u></p> <p>The French prime minister recently announced a spate of new measures – in the context of attracting businesses to France in light of Brexit – one of which would allow inbound executives to not contribute to the French pension system. There are few details at this stage, but the temporary exemption would last for three years and be renewable once.</p>
France	<p><u>As First Guidelines Get Issued on Withholding Regime, Employers Get Ready</u></p> <p>The French tax administration has published the first elements of what will be its official doctrine regarding the new withholding system of tax collection (“Pay As You Earn”) that it plans to introduce effective January 2019. There are still some gaps and questions left unanswered; but it is expected that details will be fleshed out over the coming months.</p>
France	<p><u>Stricter Provisions to Combat Fraud Tied to Foreign Workers in France</u></p> <p>On February 12, 2018, the French labor minister presented 16 measures to further combat illegal work in France. Some of the measures include increased financial penalties, widespread publication of the sanctions for illegal work, extension of the prefects’ powers to order the closure or cessation of activities of companies concerned, and reinforcement of the labor inspectors’ investigative powers.</p>

Ireland	<p><u>Reminder on 31 March Deadline for Reporting Employee Share Schemes</u></p> <p>This is a reminder that in Ireland, the mandatory due date for filing returns of information for employee share participation schemes is fast approaching: March 31, 2018. This is particularly important for companies where employees and directors have been granted share options, or options have been assigned, released, or exercised by employees and directors, or a Revenue-approved share participation scheme has been operated in 2017.</p>
Italy	<p><u>2018 Quota in Force for Issuance of Work and Residence Permits</u></p> <p>The newly enacted annual decree, Decreto Flussi, sets forth the quotas for 2018 that apply for different categories of foreign workers in Italy. It is important that immigration and global mobility professionals with employees destined for Italy are aware of the terms of the decree, which sets out the framework, the specific practices, and rules for the issuance of employees' work and residence permits in Italy.</p>
Mongolia	<p><u>Tax and Social Security Undergo Further Changes</u></p> <p>This GMS Flash Alert highlights recent tax and social security changes in Mongolia that have been approved by the country's parliament. Some of these changes represent a reversal of previous decisions and have created confusion and uncertainty for individual taxpayers and their employers.</p>
Thailand	<p><u>"Smart Visa" Debuts, Opportunities for Executives, Investors, Entrepreneurs</u></p> <p>Effective February 1, 2018, qualifying foreign experts, executives, entrepreneurs, and investors working or investing in the science- and technology-targeted industries in Thailand may be eligible for a SMART visa. This report follows up on our earlier report and provides further details and information on the qualifications, criteria, and privileges provided under the SMART visa program.</p>
United Kingdom	<p><u>Updated Guidance from HMRC on Non-Dom Rules</u></p> <p>HM Revenue & Customs has published guidance on the new rules for individuals who are non-U.K. domiciled as well as for offshore trusts, which took effect from April 6, 2017.</p>
United Kingdom	<p><u>HMRC Clarifies New Termination Payment Rules</u></p>

	<p>HM Revenue & Customs has confirmed its interpretation of the commencement provisions for the new U.K. rules on non-contractual pay in lieu of notice. In light of previous uncertainty, the position of the tax authorities has been clarified such that payments made in 2018/19 pursuant to a termination which occurred in 2017/18 will remain subject to the “old” rules, i.e., non-contractual pay in lieu of notice may be exempt from tax (within the generally applicable GBP 30,000 limit), where such payments form part of a termination settlement.</p>
United Kingdom	<p><u>Scottish Parliament Passes Rate Resolution for 2018/19</u></p> <p>The Scottish Parliament has set the income tax rates and bands that will apply to the relevant income of Scottish taxpayers for 2018/19. It was also announced that the U.K. government will resolve potential issues in respect of the interaction between the new Scottish rates and bands and other parts of the U.K. tax system.</p>
United Kingdom	<p><u>Immigration Health Surcharge to Double</u></p> <p>On February 5, 2018, the U.K.’s Department of Health and Social Care published plans to double the Immigration Health Surcharge, with the change coming into effect later this year. All nationals from outside the European Economic Area and Switzerland coming to the U.K. for longer than six months to work, study, or join family are required to pay this annual health surcharge.</p>
United States	<p><u>FinCEN Notice 2017-1 Extends FBAR Filing Date for Some</u></p> <p>The U.S. Treasury Department’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network issued a notice extending to April 15, 2019, the filing date for the “Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR)” for certain individuals who have only signature or other authority over certain foreign financial accounts.</p>
United States	<p><u>Dishing Out Tax Reform: Impact on Employer-Provided Meals in Food Service Sector</u></p> <p>H.R. 1, originally known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, makes several changes to the U.S. tax treatment of fringe benefits which will have significant impact on business deductions for employer-provided meals that are commonplace to the restaurant and food service industry.</p>

United States	<p><u>Crucial for 2018 Filings, IRS Urges Renewal of Expired ITINS</u></p> <p>The U.S. Internal Revenue Service is urging taxpayers to complete and submit renewal applications if their Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) are expiring or have expired. Tax returns with expired ITINs could experience processing delays. In addition, taxpayers with expired ITINs may lose eligibility for certain tax benefits until their ITIN is renewed. Affected taxpayers are encouraged to renew their ITINs as soon as possible.</p>
United States	<p><u>Tax Extenders in Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018</u></p> <p>On February 9, U.S. President Trump signed into law a short-term government spending and budget bill, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (the “Act”). The Act includes certain tax-related measures and retroactively extends through the 2017 tax year 33 “expiring provisions” or “tax extenders” that expired on December 31, 2016, many of which apply to individuals. Also, the Act contains a number of other tax-related provisions that had originally been included in various versions of the recently enacted tax reform legislation, but had been removed prior to the bill’s signing. Moreover, the Act provides temporary tax relief and incentives to victims of the 2017 wildfires in California.</p>
United States	<p><u>Updated USCIS Guidance on Signature Requirements, Power of Attorney</u></p> <p>On February 15, 2018, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) updated an interim policy memorandum changing the signature requirements for paper forms, as well as clarifying the uses for powers of attorney (POA) in those forms.</p>
United States	<p><u>Permissible Period of Absence Extended for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands Residents</u></p> <p>Many individuals residing in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands were displaced in September 2017 as a result of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. Many of these individuals still cannot return to their homes and, as a result, may lose their status as bona fide residents of Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands (“USVI”). In response to this situation, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service has released an advance version of Notice</p>

2018-19 that extends the period during which an individual can be absent from the territories and still be considered a resident from 14 days to 268 days, effective beginning September 6, 2017 and ending May 31, 2018.

Publications, Videos & Webinars

<p>United States - Global Rewards Services Alerts</p>	<p>Global Rewards Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A New Paradigm for Equity Deferrals in Private Companies - Section 83(i) Elections” • “H.R. 1 Section 162(m) Changes and Tax Provision Review Implications”
<p>United States - GMS</p>	<p>The 2018 <u>Taxation of International Executives: United States</u> This annually-updated GMS global publication for the United States, has been updated to account for U.S. tax law in effect as of December 31, 2017. This edition also includes provisions affecting individuals introduced by the <i>Tax Cuts and Jobs Act</i> (now Public Law No. 115-97).</p>
<p>United States - Tax</p>	<p><u>Tax Reform – KPMG Report on New Tax Law</u> From KPMG LLP (February 6, 2018), this publication includes analyses and observations regarding the myriad tax law changes in H.R. 1, signed into law by U.S. President Donald Trump on December 22, 2017.</p>

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