



Global Immigration alert

May 2024

China Mainland

Updated rules regarding Exit-Entry Permits

Executive summary

Effective 6 May 2024, Mainland Chinese residents who hold exit endorsements (i.e., Exit-Entry Permits) for business and seek to visit Hong Kong benefit from a simplified application process and an increased permitted period of stay. In addition, the existing exit endorsement initiative for Mainland Chinese talent has been expanded to individuals residing in Beijing and Shanghai.

Background

Mainland Chinese residents must obtain an exit endorsement from the Mainland authorities prior to traveling to Hong Kong or Macau. They must apply for a relevant type of endorsement (e.g., visiting relatives, individual visits, group tours, business visits) at the offices of the authorities with jurisdiction over their place of residence. Certain categories of Mainland Chinese talent (i.e., Outstanding Talent, Scientific Research Talent, Education Talent, Healthcare Talent, Legal Talent and Other Talent) who reside in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and seek to enter Hong Kong for exchanges or visits can apply for an "exit endorsement for talents (Rencai)" from the Public Security Bureau Office. A "Rencai" endorsement is valid for up to five years and allows holders to enter Hong Kong multiple times for up to 30 days per visit.

Key developments

Effective 6 May 2024, holders of exit endorsements for business visits can stay in Hong Kong for up to 14 days, up from seven days previously. Further, individuals can submit applications for this category of exit endorsements at any relevant office in

China Mainland, and not just at the office with jurisdiction over their place of residence.

Also, effective 6 May 2024, Mainland Chinese talent residing in Beijing and Shanghai can apply for a "Rencai" endorsement for the first time. Previously, only individuals residing in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao GBA were eligible for these endorsements.

Impact on employers

These changes are expected to benefit Mainland Chinese employers that send impacted individuals to Hong Kong for business visits by streamlining the travel process.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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