



Global Immigration alert

August 2024

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka temporarily suspends its new e-Visa system

Executive summary

On 2 August 2024, Sri Lanka indefinitely suspended its new e-Visa system based on an order by the Supreme Court.

Background

Sri Lanka's new [e-Visa system](#) was launched on 17 April 2024. All business visitors and tourists entering Sri Lanka are required to obtain an e-Visa through this new platform. The new e-Visa system, managed by several third parties, replaced the earlier Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), which was operated by local agencies. The introduction of this new system led to protests about increased visa costs, allegations of corruption and court complaints against government officials.

Key developments

In an interim order passed on 2 August 2024, the Supreme Court declared that the e-Visa system be temporarily suspended. According to a notice on the e-Visa portal, the system was suspended effective 5:00 p.m. on 2 August 2024. Individuals who submitted their visa applications after its suspension can apply for a refund of their application fee.

Until the e-Visa system is restored, most individuals can apply for a visa on arrival at a Sri Lankan airport, which will enable them to remain in Sri Lanka for up to 30 days. The visa-on-arrival facility is not available to nationals of Afghanistan, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan and Syria. These individuals can apply for a visa at the headquarters of the Sri Lankan Department of Immigration through a representative.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to take up the case again in October. However, officials expect that the e-Visa portal may resume operations earlier than that.

Impact on employers

Employers that send their employees to Sri Lanka for short-term business purposes may ensure that these employees hold all necessary documents to mitigate potential issues in connection with their entry into Sri Lanka and avoid potential business disruptions.

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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