

# Global BRIEF



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## RUSSIA: FRUSTRATING CHANGE IN RUSSIAN BUSINESS VISITOR REGISTRATION RULES

The new rule which was enacted this week affects people traveling to Russia, specifically the Moscow area on multiple entry business visas. The rule requires that Russian authorities place a registration stamp **only** on the business visitors new Migration cards upon **each re-entry** into Russia.

Previously, business travelers making frequent trips to Russia on commercial visas received registration stamps on both their Migration cards and their national passports, thus not requiring a new registration on each re-entry.

The frustration for business visitors who are traveling in and out of Moscow frequently is that each time they leave Russia, they are required to turn in their Migration Cards which would have had the registration stamp on them from their previous entry while keeping their national passports with them which would also have had the sticker on it.

In addition to the exclusion of the passport as a place for the sticker, the business visitor is also required to send in a letter from their landlord/ hotel, their national passport and their new Migration card to the Passport and Visa Dept. in order to obtain this re-registration. The Visa Dept in a recent memorandum, advised that re-registration will only take a day, while new registrations can take weeks to process.

Please note that this new rule does not apply to Germans or expatriates on work visas.

## CAYMAN ISLANDS: STRICTER SCRUTINY FOR NEW WORK PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The Work Permit Board advised in a memorandum released Friday 2nd September that it will be adhering strictly to the law on term limits for work permit holders, and urged employers to pay greater attention to appropriate geographic balance.

The Board expressed concern about insufficient documentation of applications. The Work Permit Board (one of 2 Boards in the Cayman Islands who monitor work permit applications) is concerned that since Hurricane Ivan the demographics of the expatriate workforce have changed significantly and recognizes the potentially negative effect that this could have on the small island community by allowing a disproportionate number of work permit holders from one geographical region.

Employers who are planning on sending foreign staff to the Cayman Islands must note there is a risk that an application may be refused if they are seen to be recruiting predominantly from one geographical region or country. Additionally the Board has commented on the inadequate information that is provided in the applications and requires that all prospective employers need more documentary evidence such as copies of signed contracts of service in order to approve the applications.

The Work Permit Board and Business Staffing Plan Board, are enforcing the term limits on work permits imposed by the Immigration Law, 2003. Clients are advised to speak to their immigration adviser with regard to term limits so that difficult situations can be avoided.

## CHINA: SCREENING POTENTIAL BRIDES IS A NATIONAL SECURITY MEASURE ?

A Taiwanese man whose Chinese wife is not able to join him in Taiwan because of her background as a prostitute asked President Chen Shui-bian to intervene -- or else find him a new wife.

To prevent immigrants from exploiting phony marriages, the Bureau of Entry and Exit screens potential brides on arrival. Human-rights groups have condemned the screening as a violation of human rights. But the government insists it is necessary on national-security grounds. [Source: Taipei Times]

## SINGAPORE: EXPATS MAY NOT BECOME PREGNANT WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT

In a recent amendment to the Fourth Schedule of the Immigration Laws, the Singapore Government has amended the laws governing the prohibitions of certain conduct, such as marriage and pregnancy. Specifically according to sections 9-11 the foreign worker shall not go through any form of marriage or apply to marry under any law, religion, custom or usage with a Singapore citizen or permanent resident in or outside Singapore, without the prior approval of the Controller, while he/she holds a work permit, and also after his/her work permit has expired or has been cancelled or revoked. Additionally a female foreign worker may not become pregnant without prior approval and any indulging or be involved in any illegal, immoral or undesirable activities, including breaking up families in Singapore is forbidden.

In this issue  
Volume 1 No 9 Sept 05

RUSSIA: Frustrating Change in Russian Business Visitor Registration Rules

CAYMAN ISLANDS: Stricter scrutiny for all new work permit applications.

CHINA: Screening potential brides is a national security measure ?

SINGAPORE: Expats may not become pregnant without consent

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