



FINLAND: Employee's Residence Permit Applications Should Be Submitted Immediately

Effective mid-May, immigration authorities will be using a new electronic processing system. This will decrease processing times for all application types; however, to accommodate for delays during this transfer period, it is imperative for you, as an employee, to make advanced arrangements if you plan to work in Finland in the spring.

Another reason to apply as soon as possible is the peak time for processing employment-based applications is from May to June. It is during the summer months that most of the applications submitted are for horticultural and agricultural divisions. These applications will be processed in an urgent manner (over all others) prior to the harvesting season and the Finnish Immigration Service expects no reduction in the number of employees working in the summer.

Currently, the average processing time for an employee's residence permit applications is about 50 days. Potentially, this number could increase in the summer months.

Expediting the Process

To expedite the application process, ensure that all information is accurate and all appendices are attached.

Employees From Outside the EU and EEA Countries

Please note that residents of EU countries: Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland may work in

Finland without holding a residence permit. If you plan to stay in Finland longer than three months, it is necessary to register your stay with the police department.

For further details, please contact your PLG Immigration Consultant.

POLAND: The Polish Labor Office Has Modified Work Permit Applications

As of February 1, 2009, new legislation redefined work permit applications procedures.

The need to obtain a Promise for the Work Permit is now unnecessary. This is based on the visas that have already been issued. Instead, a Work Permit can be obtained simply by applying at the consulate in the employee's home country. The process from start to finish takes approximately 60 days - beginning upon receipt of all documents. Note: to validate your Work Permit, you must first obtain a Work Visa or Residence Permit.

Intra-Company Transfer (ICT) Procedures Have Been Simplified

This two-step process has now been condensed to one as it is no longer necessary to have information on the local market's work force. This means that as an employee you must remain on your home-country payroll. Additionally, you may not sign an employment contract with the host entity (in Poland) and the transfer must be handled within the same capital group. This modification has reduced the process by 30 days!

All documentation must be signed by an authorized representative from the company that is sending the employee to work in Poland. The procedure also requires the home company to provide a notarized copy of the Articles of Incorporation or they must be originals.

The Validity of Work Permits Could Be Extended

Although the authorities plan to issue the permits for a 12-month period in 2009, it is possible this will be extended to a maximum of three years.

Thank you, PLG/KGNM Hungary for providing us with this invaluable information.

UNITED KINGDOM: Changes Made to Points Based System (PBS) Tiers 1 and 2

Effective March 31, 2009, the Home Secretary will be modifying Tiers 1 and 2 of the PBS. Highly-skilled workers **without** a Masters degree will not be allowed access to Tier 1 and a Certificate of Sponsorship will only be issued once vacancies are advertised at JobCentre Plus.

Pro-link GLOBAL will continue to provide further details immediately upon its availability.

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