

Philippines Immigration Alert

Critical updates to current immigration process in the Philippines

We would like to advise clients of three critical updates to the immigration process for the Philippines.

I. Introduction of Provisional Work Permit (“PWP”)

The first update is the introduction of the “Provisional Work Permit” (“PWP”). All Alien Employment Permit (“AEP”) applicants who wish to carry out employment activities while waiting for their AEP to finalize must apply for a Provisional Work Permit (“PWP”) at the Bureau of Immigration (“BI”). This added process may delay an applicant’s start of work date by a few weeks. However, at the time of writing, the BI had not accepted any PWP application submissions, partly due to a lack of clear instructions on how BI should process PWPs. All applications submitted to BI prior to this change have been put on hold until further notice. Clients should expect additional processing time in light of the above.

2. Updated checklist for Consolidated General Application Form (“CGAF”)

The BI has also issued a new checklist for the CGAF which will be used in respect of the following visa applications:

1. Special Working Permit
2. Provisionary Work Permit
3. Tourist Visa extension
4. Conversion of Tourist Visa into 9(g) Visa
5. Extension of 9(g) Visa
6. Inclusion of dependent spouse and/or unmarried children in 9(g) Visa of principal visa holder

The most notable changes are the inclusion of:

1. A joint letter request addressed to the Commissioner from the applicant and the petitioner and,
2. Submission of three duly completed and signed CGAFs is required: two sets for the visa application and one set for the ACR card application.

3. *47(a)(2) Visa holders

The third update is that the BI has stopped accepting application process which converts a 47(a)(2) Special Non-Immigrant Visa to another visa type. Holders of said visa must leave the Philippines on or before their visa’s expiration date. No further information has been provided. Holders of this visa should therefore expect to leave the Philippines if their visa is near to expiry.

Crown will continue to closely monitor all changes to the immigration process in the Philippines. We will issue another alert when updates are available and confirmed.

** Footnote: 47(a)(2) Visa is a visa that is applicable for applicants employed as executives, supervisors, specialists, consultants, contractors or personal staff at enterprises registered with the Export/Special Economic Processing Zones, Philippine Economic zone Authority (PEZA), Board of Investments (BOI), or Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB).*

View the full list at:

www.philippineconsulatela.org/consular%20services/visa_47a2.htm

Go knowing

www.crownrelo.com/philippines