

Global Immigration alert

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Angola

Angola launches new online business/tourist visa application portal

Executive summary

The Angolan Immigration and Foreigners Service (SME) has recently launched a new online portal for business/tourist visa applications. Eligible foreign nationals may now apply for an electronic visa through the [website](#).

Background

The launch of the new portal follows SME's ongoing efforts to digitalize immigration applications. It is intended to provide a modern, simple, and secure channel through which eligible foreign nationals can submit business/tourist visa applications before traveling to the country.

Key developments

The new portal enables eligible foreign nationals to create and activate a personal account, complete the online business/tourist visa application, upload the supporting documents, and make the applicable payment through the platform.

Once the application has been submitted, applicants receive a 12-digit application code that may be used to monitor the status of the request. Submission and payment do not constitute approval, which remains subject to assessment by the Angolan immigration authorities.

The introduction of the new platform does not, however, change Angola's existing [visa-exemption](#) arrangements for eligible nationalities.

Faster processing times are expected, with applications being processed within 72 hours. In addition, the introduction of secure personal user accounts and a digital tracking system will allow continuous monitoring of the status of an application in real time.

The business/tourist visa may be issued for family visits, business prospecting activities, scientific or technological activities, and recreational, sporting, and cultural purposes. While the concept of "business prospecting" is not defined under applicable Angolan legislation, it is generally understood to encompass activities such as business meetings, market research and analysis, training, workshops and conferences. It is important to note that this visa does not permit the holder to establish residence in Angola or engage in remunerated activities.

Impact on employers

Employers should continue to assess the purpose and scope of travel before employees travel to Angola to ensure that the planned activities are allowed under the business/tourist visa category and that the appropriate immigration category is obtained where required.

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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