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Global Immigration alert

March 2026

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Finland

Brexit residence permit cards must be renewed after five years

Executive summary

Brexit permits granted under the Withdrawal Agreement remain valid until further notice. However, Brexit residence permit cards are only valid for five years at a time, after which they must be renewed. Individuals with an expiring Brexit residence permit card may apply for either new Brexit residence permit card or a permanent Brexit permit.

Key developments

Individuals who have a right of permanent residence in Finland under the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement should apply for a new Brexit residence permit card. An individual has a right of permanent residence under the Withdrawal Agreement if their current Brexit residence permit card contains the reference "P SEU-sopimuksen 50 artikla" or "P artikel 50 I EU-fördraget."

Individuals who have a right of residence in Finland under the Withdrawal Agreement should apply for a permanent Brexit permit. An individual has a right of residence under the Withdrawal Agreement if their current Brexit residence permit card contains the reference "SEU-sopimuksen 50 artikla" or "artikel 50 I EU-fördraget."

A new residence permit card or permit should not be applied earlier than three months before the expiry of an individual's current residence permit card.

In addition, the Finnish immigration authorities introduced automated decisions for the renewal of permanent Brexit residence permit cards, effective 15 December 2025.

Impact on employers

Employers may stay updated about the latest developments, update their internal processes and keep employees informed.

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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