



Mobility: Immigration alert

May 2024

Cyprus

Further amendments to Cyprus' new laws regarding citizenship by naturalization

Executive summary

On 16 May 2024, Cyprus' House of Representatives approved further amendments to the Civil Registry Law, impacting [previous provisions](#) for acquiring citizenship by naturalization. The Civil Registry Law was last amended in December 2023, but the amendments are yet to be implemented.

Key developments

The new amendments introduce the following changes for all naturalization applicants except eligible highly qualified employees:

- In general, applicants must have continuously resided in Cyprus for at least eight years in the 11 years prior to filing the application, with limited exceptions. They may stay outside Cyprus for up to 90 days per calendar year without impacting their accumulated period of residence, and for up to 90 days in the 12 months prior to filing the application.
- Applicants must have a Level B1 certificate in knowledge of the Greek language and a Certificate of Success proving they have sufficient knowledge of Cyprus' history and political/social status.
- Applicants must prove their "good character" by submitting a clean criminal record certificate and be financially self-sufficient. The minimum amount of funds required will be decided on a case-to-case basis.
- Applicants must make a declaration that they intend to continue residing in Cyprus.

Highly qualified employees working for foreign companies located in Cyprus will be subject to the following requirements:

- Individuals who have a Level A2 certificate in knowledge of the Greek language must have continuously resided in Cyprus for at least five years in the 11 years prior to filing the application. Those

who have a Level B1 certificate will be required to prove continuous residence of at least four years in the 11-year period. They may stay outside Cyprus for up to 90 days per calendar year without impacting their accumulated period of residence, and for up to 90 days in the 12 months prior to filing the application.

- These individuals will be able to pay an additional fee and receive fast-track processing, pursuant to which applications will be adjudicated within eight months. The fee is yet to be determined by the Minister of Interior.
- Spouses and civil partners of these individuals can apply for citizenship by naturalization under the same conditions as those applicable to the primary applicants. Children who are under the age of 18 at the time of their parents' application, but turn 18 during the processing of the application, can apply for citizenship immediately after their parents' application is approved, provided they submit proof of clean criminal records.

All citizenship applications submitted before the new amendments go into effect will be decided based on the eligibility criteria applicable at the time of filing the application.

Impact on employers

These amendments are expected to benefit employers by simplifying citizenship requirements for eligible applicants and their dependents.

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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