



Global Immigration alert

July 2024

Netherlands

Longer application processing times expected during the summer period

Executive summary

In early July 2024, the labor and immigration authorities announced that it will take longer to process work and residence authorization applications filed during the summer period (i.e., July 2024 to September 2024). Previously, the immigration authorities relaxed the requirements for Intra-Corporate Transferee (ICT) Permit holders who seek to obtain new ICT Permits.

Key developments

The Employee Insurance Agency (UWV), which processes work authorization applications, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND), which processes residence authorization applications, announced the following updates regarding processing times:

- ▶ Processing of work authorization applications will take an additional four weeks, over and above the usual five weeks, due to a high increase in applications submitted and the implementation of a new processing system. The UWV expects to clear application backlogs in four months.
- ▶ Processing of all knowledge and talent residence permit applications (i.e., Highly Skilled Migrant Residence Permits, ICT Permits, EU Blue Card Residence Permits, residence permits for researchers under the EU Directive 2016/801 and residence permits for essential start-up personnel) filed during the summer period will take longer due to staffing shortages during the holiday season. In general, these applications are processed within two to three weeks of submission (if filed by accredited sponsors) or two to three months (if filed by non-accredited sponsors). The authorities have not clarified to what extent processing times will be impacted.

In addition, the IND announced that ICT Permit holders who seek to apply for a new ICT Permit must stay outside the EU for at least six months before they can submit a new application, only if they have utilized the maximum validity period of their Permit (i.e., three years for managers or specialists and one year for trainees). Previous residence in another EU Member State is counted toward the maximum validity for purposes of filing new applications. Previously, Dutch laws stipulated that ICT Permit holders were required to stay outside the EU for at least six months before they could apply to extend their stay in the country based on the same permit (i.e., by extending their current permit or obtaining a new one), even if they had not yet fully utilized the maximum validity period. Although the IND did not apply this stipulation in practice, the law was not officially amended until 16 April 2024.

Impact on employers

Employers may consider the longer application processing times during the summer period and submit relevant applications at the earliest to mitigate business disruptions.

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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