



GMS Flash Alert



Flash Alert

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Flash Alerts

Australia

[Temporary Skill Shortage Visa Program in Effect](#)

The Australian government has introduced the new Temporary Skill Shortage (“TSS”) visa program with effect from March 18, 2018. Complementary changes to employer-sponsored permanent skilled migration will take effect alongside the new TSS visa framework. With the introduction of the TSS visa framework, employers will need to carefully navigate the new Labour Market Testing requirements. Also, the costs of the new Skilling Australians Fund training levy will need to be factored into overall expenses relating to the nomination of existing assignees seeking to extend their stay in Australia with a TSS visa, or assignees seeking a new TSS visa.

Czech Republic

[Planned Changes in Taxation of Individuals](#)

The Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic has published the proposal of amendment to the Income Tax Act which should become effective as of January 1, 2019. Changes include abolition of the 15-percent flat rate and the 7-percent solidarity tax, elimination of the current calculation of personal income tax on super-gross salary, and the introduction of a progressive tax rate of 19 percent for income of up to CZK 1.5 million and 24 percent (may be 23 percent) for income above this amount.

Hong Kong	<p><u>Budget Offers Relief from Salaries Tax, Other Measures</u></p> <p>The Hong Kong financial secretary announced the new Budget on February 28, 2018. With respect to Salaries Tax – which is charged on income arising in or derived from Hong Kong from an office or employment or a pension – these measures include a one-off reduction, increases in several personal allowances, and the widening and adjusting of the progressive rate bands.</p>
India	<p><u>FRRO Registration, Visa Extension, Conversion, Go Digital</u></p> <p>The government of India recently launched an online portal for registration, visa extensions, and other immigration-related services for foreign nationals visiting India. Applicants for these services no longer have to visit a Foreigners Regional Registration Office in person.</p>
India	<p><u>Advance Rulings on Withholding, Foreign Tax Credits for Nonresident Employees</u></p> <p>India's Authority for Advance Rulings ("AAR") recently determined that no tax withholding is required on salaries paid by an employer in India to its nonresident employees working outside India. The AAR also held that foreign tax credits may be claimed at the withholding stage for resident aliens.</p>
India	<p><u>Budget Contains Mixed Bag of Measures for Individuals</u></p> <p>India's budget for 2018-2019 was presented on February 1, 2018, with no changes to individual income tax rates, but changes to deductions and cesses (or levies). Key changes include the new Health and Education Cess, the standard deduction, the taxability of termination payments, reintroduction of tax on long-term capital gains on financial securities, removal of tax-free medical reimbursement, and the exemption of conveyance allowance.</p>
South Korea	<p><u>Changes in Income Tax Rates, Tax Residency Conditions, and More</u></p> <p>South Korea's National Assembly approved the 2018 Tax Law Amendment Bill early this year. The legislation, now enacted in law, amends marginal income tax rates, employer's obligations to file a payroll withholding tax return at a new flat rate on the service fee payable to a foreign entity dispatching its employees, and the threshold above which individuals are required to file a</p>

	Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts by June 30.
United Kingdom	<p><u>New Applications Forms for Applicants from Outside U.K.</u></p> <p>The Home Office has added Tier 2 and Tier 2 dependant applications to Access UK, its new portal for applying for U.K. visas. Visa4uk remains available, but it is expected to be closed to Tier 2 applications in the future. Assignees will need to use the new portal to make their applications and the questionnaires their advisers require to complete forms on their behalf will need to be updated.</p>
United Kingdom	<p><u>Government Announces Changes to Immigration Fees from 6 April</u></p> <p>On March 16, 2018, the U.K. government announced its plans to increase fees for visa, immigration, and nationality applications, as well as associated priority and premium services starting April 6, 2018. New legislation, among other things, provides for a 4-percent increase to apply to work, study, and visit visas, as well as nationality, settlement, and family visas; a 15-percent increase to apply to optional overseas priority visa services; and an increase in the fees for entry clearance to the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.</p>
United States	<p><u>Policy Change for H1-B Petitions Involving Third-Party Placement</u></p> <p>On February 22, 2018, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services published a policy memorandum entitled "Contracts and Itineraries Requirements for H-1B Petitions Involving Third-Party Worksites." The memorandum concluded that employer violations are more likely to occur at third-party worksites. As a counter-measure, the new policy requires corroborating evidence that the work to be performed by the beneficiary at a third-party location will be in a specialty occupation. The guidelines set out in the policy memorandum took effect immediately.</p>
United States	<p><u>Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program to End September 28</u></p> <p>On March 13, 2018, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service announced that it will be ending the 2014 Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program. The program will close on September 28, 2018. The program has allowed U.S. taxpayers to voluntarily resolve past non-compliance related to unreported foreign financial assets and failure to file information returns with respect to foreign</p>

	<p>holdings. Taxpayers who took part in one of these programs avoided prosecution and limited their exposure to civil penalties.</p>
United States	<p>Joint Agency Pilot for Canadian Citizens Seeking L-1 Non-Immigrant Status Effective April 30, 2018, Canadian citizens seeking L-1 non-immigrant status in the U.S. through the Peace Arch Point of Entry or through the Pacific Highway Truck Crossing, will be required to first submit a Form I-129 and supporting evidence to the USCIS California Service Center, before seeking admission into the U.S. through these two border crossings.</p>

Publications, Videos & Webinars	
United States: GMS	<p>Article: Update - Casualty Loss Deductions on Individual Income Tax Returns This updated article, published by the GMS group in KPMG's Washington National Tax practice, "Taking Some Sting out of the Loss: Casualty Loss Deductions on Individual Income Tax Returns," describes in detail how taxpayers should account for losses incurred on personal real property and belongings as a result of the 2017 hurricanes and tropical storms. The IRS has recently issued guidance providing safe harbor methods to calculate the amount of the loss, and this article takes account of that.</p>
United States: GMS	<p>Win-win: Better Benefits, Better Employers, Employees In this article, Global Mobility Services Director Larry Shulman discusses the impact of the new U.S. tax reform law on employee benefits in New Jersey.</p>
United States: Employment Tax	<p>Payroll Insights (March 2018) is designed to provide you with current developments in the payroll and employment tax arena.</p> <p>In this issue:</p> <p>Tax Reform <i>Updated Form W-4 and Updated Withholding Calculator</i> <i>Employer-Provided Meals</i></p> <p>Rate Notice <i>Health Savings Account</i></p> <p>Federal Update <i>Federal Unemployment Tax Update</i></p>

State Updates
Oregon – New Tax Effective July 2018

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