

Certificate of good conduct and behavior mandatory for UAE work visas

January 2018

In brief

The UAE authorities have announced that a certificate of good conduct and behaviour will be a mandatory requirement for obtaining a new UAE work visa from 4 February 2018.

In detail

Expatriates will need to procure a certificate of good conduct and behaviour from their respective home country or a country where they have legally resided in the last five years. The certificate will then need to be authenticated by the UAE diplomatic mission or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs overseas. This new rule is deemed to be applicable to all UAE jurisdictions but excludes dependants accompanying primary applicants as well as tourists.

The implementation of this new rule comes in light of the UAE authorities endeavoring to achieve high levels of security for UAE residents and ensuring that security screening measures are met with authenticated evidence in the form of a legalised good certificate of conduct.

The takeaway

Companies operating in the UAE should note that the introduction of this requirement amends the work authorisation process for foreign national employees and adds to the total lead times to procure a visa. Whilst the authorities have not confirmed at which stage in the process the certificate will be required it is expected that it will be required before the Employment Entry Permit is issued. The additional processing time will largely depend on how quickly a certificate can be procured in the applicant's home country or a country where they have legally resided in the last five years. We will revert with additional information as soon as developments occur.

PwC Middle East Tax and Legal contacts

Dean Kern, *Dubai*
Middle East Tax and Legal
Services Leader
+971 (0) 4 304 3575
dean.kern@pwc.com

Jonathan Gibson, *Dubai*
Middle East Legal Services Leader
+971 (0) 4 304 3424
jonathan.s.gibson@pwc.com

Anir Chatterji, *Dubai*
Senior Manager
+971 (0) 4 304 3922
anir.chatterji@pwc.com