

Ghana Immigration Service extends medical examination to all immigration permit applicants

The restriction on travel and movement is perhaps one of the most visible effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Expectedly, the pandemic is also affecting immigration regulations around the world. In Ghana, the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) has recently announced an extension of its mandatory medical examination requirement to all categories of immigration permit applicants.

In this update, we provide highlights of the new measures announced by the GIS and key points to note.



Background

Previously, only applicants for fresh work and residence permits were required to undertake mandatory medical examination at the GIS Clinic. Thus, renewal applications for residence permits did not require physical presence of applicants for medical examination.

New requirement

The GIS has extended the scope of its mandatory medical examinations to applicants seeking renewal of residence permits, indefinite residence permits, right of abode, naturalization and other residence permit types. The GIS expects this to help curb the spread of infectious diseases in recognition of the increased health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new measure took effect from 15 June 2020 and the medical examination must be physically completed at the GIS clinic in Accra. The official medical examination fee for initial work and residence permit applications has also been increased from GHS 900 to GHS 1,100 and a fee of GHS 600 introduced for renewal applications.

The table below gives a summary of the fee schedule for medical examination for the various application types.

S.N.	Category of application	No. of Years	Medical Examination Fee (GHS)
1	Fresh residence permit	1 year	1,100
2	Renewal of residence permit	1-3 years	600
3	Renewal of residence permit	4-5 years	1,100
4	Indefinite residence permit	-	1,100
5	Right of Abode for other African descents in the Diaspora	-	1,100
6	Naturalization	-	1,100

Source: Ghana Immigration Service Circular (Ref: CGI/IM/152/VOL.1/20)

Deloitte Analysis & Comments

The new measure will affect all categories of applications for immigration permits, including renewal applications. The requirement is likely to add to the processing time for residence permit renewal applications.

Employers should therefore account for this change and schedule medical appointments at the GIS clinic for principal applicants of work and residence permits accordingly.



How can Deloitte help?

Deloitte has built the requisite skills and experience to guide you through the complexities of the Ghanaian immigration and regulatory landscape for your expatriate employees.

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