



GES Newsflash

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Greetings from your Tax & Legal team at Deloitte Singapore. We are pleased to update you on the following:

Singapore: Paperless arrival card to be introduced for international visitors

The Singapore Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) announced it will trial an electronic disembarkation/embarkation card for international visitors entering by air, land, and sea.

Passengers will eventually be able to submit their personal information and trip details through the ICA's website or via a mobile app before their arrival, which replaces the disembarkation/embarkation card that is currently manually filled out.

- **Implementation time frame:** The trial period started on Thursday, 4 October 2018, and will run for three months at most air, land, and sea ports of entry.
- **Visas/permits affected:** During the trial period, international visitors entering Singapore that have not completed the disembarkation/embarkation card will be directed to the online system in the arrival hall to obtain their short-term visit pass.
- **Business impact:** The paperless procedure could speed up immigration clearance for international visitors to Singapore, as they will only need to show their passport to border officers who will be able to access their electronic forms.
- **Next steps:** Full details of the implementation will be announced after the trial period.

Background

Border authorities are moving to a paperless system to streamline processes, reduce paper forms and retain passenger information within their databases. Passengers will fill out their disembarkation/embarkation card online via the ICA website or a mobile app. The card requires certain information such as the traveler's name, local address, and travel document number. Information submitted electronically can be retrieved for future trips.

The change does not affect Singaporeans, permanent residents and long-term pass holders (e.g., students and workers) who are returning to Singapore, as they do not need to submit any disembarkation/embarkation card.

Deloitte Singapore's view

The move toward a paperless immigration clearance system is good news for travellers as it streamlines the process, and reduces the need to carry and present the disembarkation/embarkation card to border officers. International visitors to Singapore may be approached by ICA officers during the trial period to participate in the trial and provide feedback that will be used to assess and help improve the system for full implementation.

Contacts

Should you have any comments or questions arising from this newsletter, please contact either the listed contacts below, your usual contact in Deloitte, or any member of the [Deloitte Singapore Tax & Legal team](#).

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