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Appointment availability and temporary suspension of operations by the INM

Impact - high

Background

According to information informally shared by immigration authorities, appointment slots for the week of December 14-18, 2026 are expected to be released during the week of November 24, 2026. This is anticipated to be the last operational week of the National Institute of Migration (INM) for the processing of immigration matters during the current year.

Authorities have also indicated that the INM is expected to suspend operations and public services from December 21 through December 31, 2026. As of the date of this communication, this information has not yet been confirmed by the authority.

Based on the above, immigration applications that are not scheduled during the appointment availability window for the week of December 14-18 would likely need to be filed starting January 4, 2027, the estimated date on which the INM is expected to resume operations. This date also remains subject to official confirmation.

Impact

The limited appointment availability and temporary suspension of operations may result in significant delays in the filing and adjudication of various immigration processes.

Cases that are not filed before the suspension period may be subject to the INM's reopening schedule and operational capacity in January 2027, potentially affecting the continuity of immigration processes for both companies and foreign nationals.

Who will be affected?

This situation may impact employers, Human Resources departments, Global Mobility teams, legal departments, and foreign nationals who need to submit immigration applications before the INM in the coming weeks.

Immigration processes potentially affected

The temporary suspension of operations may impact, among others, the following processes:

- Employer registration certificate applications
- Employer registration certificate updates
- Work visa applications based on a job offer
- Family-based visa applications
- Immigration status exchange procedures (visa-to-resident card process)
- Renewals of immigration documents
- Family unity residency applications
- Permanent resident status applications
- Notifications of changes in address, employer, nationality, name, or marital status for foreign nationals

Recommended next steps

- Prioritize the identification of immigration cases that require filing within the coming weeks.
- Prepare and complete all supporting documentation in advance to take advantage of the appointment availability expected to be released during the week of November 24.
- Assess operational risks associated with potential delays in obtaining or renewing immigration documents.
- Closely monitor any official communications issued by the INM regarding its service calendar and reopening schedule.

We strongly recommend that organizations and foreign nationals begin preparing their immigration cases immediately to maximize the likelihood of securing an appointment before the suspension period and to mitigate potential operational disruptions.

Effective date

December 14-18, 2026 (expected final operational week of the INM for 2026)

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