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## GES NewsFlash

# Beijing and Shanghai — Allows Visa-Free Stay for Transit Travelers from 45 Countries



**January 18, 2013**

According to the State Council of China, as of January 1, 2013, airline passengers arriving from 45 countries while in transit from Beijing or Shanghai to a third-country destination will be able to enjoy an extended visa-free stay in Beijing or Shanghai for up to 72 hours.

To qualify, applicants must provide their passports along with a confirmed third-country visa and confirmed flight ticket to the third country.

The 45 countries that will be covered by the 72-hour visa-free policy are as follows: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, , and the United States.

### **Beijing - Procedural change for employment license application effective as of February 1, 2013**

Based on the latest regulations from Beijing Labor Bureau and Beijing Expert Bureau, effective as of February 1, 2013, employers cannot delegate the submission of foreign employees' employment licenses or expert license applications to third parties in Beijing. However, the qualified third party may continue to help employers in respect of the application/alteration/de-registration formalities of foreign employees' work permits and expert permits.

As per the new requirements from Beijing authorities, HR personnel must submit employment license or expert license applications for applicants by providing their employee card/name card, power of attorney, and foreign employee's application materials to the Beijing Labor Bureau or Beijing Expert Bureau. HR personnel should explain to Chinese government authorities the reasons for recruiting foreign employees. Additional information may need to be provided if it is deemed necessary by the Chinese government.

### Deloitte's view

This new policy about a visa-free stay for transit travelers has been implemented in Beijing and Shanghai to establish these two cities as major international transport centers.

With respect to the procedural change in employment license application in Beijing, it appears that Beijing authorities will tighten the requirement for hiring expats working in Beijing.

If there are any other questions, please feel free to contact your immigration specialist.

### People to contact

If you have any questions concerning the issues in this *GES NewsFlash*, please contact one of the Global Employer Services professionals at our Deloitte offices as follows:

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