



Trade in Services under the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement

22 September 2021



Provisions under EUSFTA allowing temporary presence for business purposes

Singapore Immigration requirements

- ▶ EU nationals are usually visa free and obtain up to 90 days visit pass upon arrival (currently COVID-19 travel ban and restrictions)
- ▶ Work pass needed for foreigners to work in Singapore (usually Employment Pass)
- ▶ Regular EP applications must comply with Fair Consideration Framework (“FCF”)
- ▶ Exemption from advertising on MyCareersFuture for Intra-Corporate transferees (“ICTs”) under FTAs
- ▶ Regular EP process and other exemptions should also be considered
- ▶ Pre-approval approval required before work pass holders and dependants travel to Singapore

Categories under EUSFTA

- ▶ “Key Personnel” include:
 - ▶ Business visitors
 - ▶ Intra-corporate transferees
 - ▶ Graduate trainees
 - ▶ Business services sellers

Eligibility as ICTs for exemption

- ▶ MOM strictly interprets eligibility requirements and must have worked for related company overseas for at least 1 year and come within definitions:
 - ▶ “executives”
 - ▶ “managers”
 - ▶ “specialists”

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Restrictions on ICT route

- ▶ FTA exemption not intended for long term assignments
- ▶ Sponsorship of dependants not permitted unless provided for under FTA
- ▶ An ICT is not eligible for future employment in Singapore after termination/expiry of current pass
- ▶ ICT not eligible to apply for Permanent Residence

Recommendations

- ▶ FTA exemption, if short term assignment and no dependants
- ▶ Useful if urgency to start assignment
- ▶ Regular EP process complicated and can be long drawn out for new companies but consider options