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Singapore - Increased Levies for S-Passes



The Ministry of Manpower in Singapore has announced new government levies (a.k.a. "government fees") for S-Passes and blue collar (construction and manufacturing) work permit categories.

The S-Pass was introduced in 2004 to help companies hire mid-level skilled workers with qualifications and earning at least S\$1,800 a month. S Pass holders are capped at 25% of a company's workforce. Over the past 6 years, this group has grown exponentially. At the end of 2009, there were 82,000 S-Pass holders in Singapore.

The increased government fees are designed to moderate the growth of the unskilled and semi-skilled foreign workforce and encourage greater productivity. The Ministry also aims to encourage companies to employ more highly skilled foreign workers.

From July 2010, there will be a 2-tier levy for S Pass holders - divided into "Basic Tier" and "Tier 2". Basic Tier is for the first portion of S-Pass holders hired, with Tier 2 for the remainder, up to the cap of 25% of the company's total workforce.

The current levy for S-Pass holders is S\$50. It will be increased to S\$100 for Basic Tier and S\$120 for Tier 2 in July 2010. In July 2012, the levy will be further increased to S\$150 for Basic Tier and S\$250 for Tier 2. The increases have been designed to take effect gradually to minimize negative impact on employers. The changes are noted in the table below.

	Current Monthly Levy	Changes in July 2010	Changes by July 2012
S-Pass Holders	S\$50	Basic Tier (0-20%) S\$100	Basic Tier (0-15%) S\$150
		Tier 2 (20-25%) S\$120	Tier 2 (15-25%) S\$250

What you need to do...

- Note that there will be increased government fees for S-Passes from July 2010 and plan accordingly.

This information was obtained from the Ministry of Manpower.

If you have any questions relating to this alert, please contact your Emigra Ogletree Worldwide representative or Account Manager.

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