



Employees' Provident Fund Organisation launches new software for online generation of Certificate of Coverage

Background

The Government of India (GOI) made fundamental changes in the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 (EPFS) and Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 (EPS) in October 2008 by bringing International Workers (IWs) under the purview of the Indian social security regime.

India has signed several Social Security Agreements (SSAs) with other countries with a view to obtain an exemption from a contribution towards social security in the host countries for outbound employees, provided that they contribute to social security in India. To obtain this exemption, an outbound employee requires a Certificate of Coverage (COC) from the designated agency, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), which serves as a proof of social security contribution in India.

The EPFO had issued a circular¹ with regard to the revised COC application for Indian workers (holding an Indian passport) going to work in countries with which India has SSA.

The EPFO recently issued another circular² in this regard announcing the launch of a new application software on 20 July 2017 for online generation of COC and the same is available on the 'International Workers Portal' of EPFO's website.

Highlights of the circular

- In view of the launch of the online system for generation of COC, the physical application for COC has been discontinued.
- EPFO field offices have been asked to advise employees to use the online system only to obtain COC for their assignment abroad.

Our comments

The new COC software application to obtain COC through online mode for Indian workers (holding an Indian passport) is a welcome step in the direction of streamlining the administrative process to obtain benefits under the Social Security Agreements.

¹ EPFO Circular – http://www.epfindia.com/site_docs/PDFs/Circulars/Y2017-2018/IWU_Application_COC_6057.pdf

Accessed on 2 August 2017

² EPFO Circular - http://www.epfindia.com/site_docs/PDFs/Circulars/Y2017-2018/IWU_COC_Generation_1708.pdf

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