



TAX FLASH NEWS

06 January 2017



Extension of deadline for conversion of Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card into Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card

Background

In January 2015, the Indian government had merged the Person of Indian Origin (PIO) and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) schemes through the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015¹. Under the merged scheme, existing PIO cardholders could enjoy the same benefits as that of OCI cardholders, and the issuance of new PIO cards was restricted.

Accordingly, the government recommended that all PIO cardholders apply for OCI cards in lieu of their existing PIO cards. The last date for submission of such applications was earlier declared as 31 December 2016².

Key change

However, as per a recent announcement³ from the government, the due date for the submission of applications for conversion of PIO card to OCI card has been extended by six months to 30 June 2017.

Our comments

While the government has been quite liberal with timelines until now, it is advisable that existing PIO cardholders make the maximum use of this extended window and apply for the conversion of their PIO cards to OCI cards.

¹ For our earlier flash news, refer [link](#)

² MEA press release dated 20 June 2016

³ mha.nic.in

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