



MEXICO REDUCES DELAYS IN IMMIGRATION PROCESS BY SEVERAL WEEKS

Mexico's National Immigration Institute (INM) has significantly reduced immigration backlogs and adjudication times in recent weeks following targeted efforts to address processing delays. Applications for work authorization extensions, which previously had taken between four and six weeks for approval, are now being adjudicated in 1–2 weeks on average. Similarly, the average time frame for issuance of Temporary and Permanent Residence ID cards has dropped from five weeks to 1–3 business days.

INM implementation of the new immigration regulations that took effect on November 9, 2012, and the recent government anti-corruption initiative had caused generalized delays across the immigration system. Anti-corruption initiatives resulted in the dismissal of more than 620 public servants at local INM offices throughout the country in the last 6 months, further exacerbating backlogs.

In response to the delays, INM opened dedicated desks at its central Mexico City operations for adjudicating visa renewal and registration applications for foreign nationals who have received a pre-approval of their immigration status as Temporary or Permanent Residents. Additionally, INM has decentralized the issuance of Temporary and Permanent Residence cards, acquiring special printers for all 32 local INM offices across Mexico. Previously, Residence cards were only issued by the National Printing Office in Mexico City. Additionally, in July the government began offering additional training to immigration officers who would be assigned to visa departments at consular posts abroad, a measure which is expected to reduce delays and increase consistency in the adjudication of visa applications.

While these recent improvements in the Mexican immigration system are noteworthy, other new immigration regulations have yet to be implemented—including the points-based system for permanent residence and the quota system for employment-based work authorization. As INM continues to establish and enforce the changes resulting from the new immigration regime, it is possible that other delays may arise in the future.

FosterQuan's Global Section will continue to monitor these procedural changes and timeframes for Mexican immigration services as they become available. Please contact globalinquiries@fosterquan.com if you would like additional information regarding global immigration processes.