
Extension of registration deadline for PIO into OCI card

July 10, 2017

In brief

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had notified¹ in January 2015 that all Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card holders as on 9 January, 2015 would be deemed as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders. However, such PIO card holders were required to apply for online registration for conversion into OCI cardholders.

Subsequently, the MHA issued another notification² according to which all pending applications for PIO cards received before 9 January, 2015 were returned to applicants with a direction that such applicants may apply for the OCI card.

Although, the Government had set the deadline for the registration of such conversion as 31 March, 2016 but the same was later extended on various occasions.

The Government has again now extended the deadline for registration of conversion of PIO card into OCI card holders to 31 December, 2017.

In detail

Earlier, foreign nationals of Indian origin had the option to apply for an OCI or PIO card. OCI cards are valid for life long and holders do not require any visa to come into India and the requirement of registration with Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO) is also waived. PIO card on the other hand is valid for 15 years and holders are offered the benefit of no visa but the holder needs to register with FRRO authorities within 30 days upon their continuous stay in India exceeding 180 days.

MHA, notified³ that all PIO cards shall now be deemed to be OCI cards and as such PIO

card holders were required to apply online at <https://passport.gov.in/oci/> for one time registration. There is no fee payable by PIO card holders for such registration and only copies of foreign passport and existing PIO card is required to be submitted.

OCI card has the following advantages:

- OCI card is a smart card.
- Possession of an OCI card will facilitate quicker immigration clearance at the immigration check posts.

- It will help in obtaining various Consular services from the India Missions.
- For those who are resident in India, it will facilitate in availing various services in India.

Although, initial deadline for registration as OCI card holder was 31 March 31, 2016. However, the same has been extended on various occasions. The registration deadline has been extended again from 30 June, 2017 to 31 December, 2017.

The takeaways

Extension of deadline for registration of conversion of PIO card to OCI card is a

¹ Notification no. 26011/01/2014-IC.I dated 9 January 2015

² Notification no. 26011/04/2014-OCI dated 16 January 2015

³ Notification no. 26011/01/2014-IC.I dated 9 January 2015

welcome step and that will help those who for some reason have not been able to make such

applications till now.

Let's talk

For a deeper discussion of how

this issue might affect your business, please contact your local PwC advisor

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