What's New

News Flash

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Aadhaar for income tax returns and PAN - Government exempts foreign nationals and non-residents

The Finance Act, 2017 has introduced a new provision (section 139AA) which mandatorily required quoting of Aadhaar number/ Enrollment ID of Aadhaar application to file a tax return in India or to apply for a permanent account number (PAN) or to continue keeping the existing PAN active. This amendment is effective from 01 July, 2017 and applicable to all individuals who are eligible to obtain Aadhaar number. For detailed discussion, please refer to our news alert dated 04 April, 2017.

The Government of India has now notified¹ that foreign nationals are no longer required to quote the Aadhaar number to file return and/ or while applying for PAN/ or for keeping the existing PAN active. The following other category of individuals have also been exempted from this requirement –

- (i) Who is an non-resident as per the Income-tax Act, 1961;
- (ii) Who has attained the age of eighty years at any time during the previous year;
- (iii) Who is residing in the States of Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Meghalaya.

Takeaway

This notification comes as a relief particularly for foreign nationals and non-residents of India as they were facing the challenge of physically visiting the Aadhaar centre to obtain Aadhaar number. Now, such individuals would be able to file their tax return/obtain PAN as Aadhaar is not mandatorily required.

Companies having expatriate employees may take note of this change and also make such employees aware of the change.

¹ Notification No. 37/2017, F.No. 370133/6/2017-TPL, dated 11 May, 2017

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