

# Parker & Co

Business Immigration  
Update

November 2008

## TIERS 2 AND 5

The UK BA have just announced that between 27 November 2008 and 1 April 2009, UK applicants will only be able to apply for Tiers 2 and 5 by post. No premium processing service will be made available by Public Enquiry Offices until April next year at the earliest.

The service standard to process postal applications will initially be 6 weeks. Applicants will be required to submit their passport while the application is being considered by the UK BA.

While the UK BA acknowledge it will be difficult for frequent travellers to be without their passport for 6 weeks, little is being done to minimise the impact this will have. The UK BA suggest that those whose leave expires before 1 April can apply to extend their existing work permit by Wednesday 26 November and then utilise same day processing to apply for further leave to remain.

However, from 27 November, when Tier 2 comes into effect, the current dual application process will be replaced by a single application. The UK BA will then offer a premium postal service for certain applicants, under which they will aim, but not guarantee, to decide an application within 1 week of the fee clearing. Various conditions need to be satisfied for premium postal processing, including regular overseas travel, planned travel within 6 weeks of submitting the application, sponsorship from an A-rated sponsor and there being no change of employer or job.

**Tier 2 will replace the current work permit system on 27 November. If you are not a UK BA licensed sponsor, your employees will not be able to use Tier 2.**

If you have any queries, please get in touch with your usual Parker & Co contact.

### DISCLAIMER

All information in this update is intended for general guidance only and is not intended to be comprehensive, or to provide legal advice. If you have any questions on any issues either in this update or on other areas of employment law, please contact Parker & Co. We do not accept responsibility for the content of external internet sites linked to in this update.

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