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Fast Lane for Essential Business and Official Travel Between China and Singapore

Introduction

On 3 June 2020, the Ministry of Trade and Industry ("MTI") and Ministry of Foreign Affairs ("MFA") [jointly announced](#) that fast lane arrangements will be in place to facilitate essential business and official travel between Singapore and China. The fast lane arrangements will be established between Singapore and six Chinese provinces and municipalities (Chongqing, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Tianjin and Zhejiang) ("**Relevant Six Chinese Provinces/Municipalities**").

Under the fast lane arrangements, residents in Singapore who are seeking to make essential travel to China must be sponsored by either a company or a government agency in China, while residents in China who are seeking to make essential travel to Singapore must be sponsored by either a company or a Singapore Government agency.

From 8 June 2020, a traveller sponsored by a government agency for essential business or official travel to Singapore may submit an application under the fast lane arrangements. Applications for company-sponsored travellers may be submitted in a later phase.

This Update highlights the key requirements of the fast lane arrangements which relate to: (1) applications for approvals by the relevant authorities and visas; (2) pre-departure health measures; (3) post-arrival health measures; and (4) controlled itinerary.

Travelling to China

1. Application for approvals and visas

For a resident in Singapore who wishes to make essential travel to China, the company or government agency in China that is sponsoring him/her must file an application on behalf of him/her with the local provincial or municipal authorities.

An approved applicant will receive an invitation letter. He/she should then apply for a visa from the PRC Embassy in Singapore, as well as submit a health declaration to the Chinese authorities.

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2. Pre-departure health measures

An approved applicant must take a polymerase chain reaction ("**PCR**") test within 48 hours before departure and obtain a certificate of having tested negative for COVID-19.

3. Post-arrival health measures

When an approved applicant arrives in China, he/she has to undergo a PCR test and serology test and remain in locations designated by the local provincial or municipal government for one to two days until the test result is released. An approved applicant who is tested negative for COVID-19 may be transported to the workplace or residence. If tested positive for COVID-19, the approved applicant will undergo medical treatment in China at his/her cost. Travellers must use China's local Health QR code for the duration of their stay in China.

4. Controlled itinerary

For the first 14 days upon arrival in China, an approved applicant is required to adhere to a controlled itinerary that is supervised by the host company or government agency. He/she must not use public transportation and should only commute by private hire cars/taxis or cohorted company transport.

An approved applicant is allowed to travel within the Relevant Six Chinese Provinces/Municipalities during the first 14 days upon arrival, subject to an advance approval by the provincial/municipal government of the next destination. The approval must be obtained through the host company or government agency. Travelling outside the Relevant Six Chinese Provinces/Municipalities is only allowed after the approved applicant has stayed in the six region/s for 14 days, and should adhere to prevailing measures in China.

Travelling to Singapore

1. Application for approvals and visas

A company or a Singapore Government agency that is acting as the sponsor ("**Sponsor**") for a resident in China making essential travel to Singapore via the fast lane must file an application on behalf of the applicant for a SafeTravel Pass. If approved, an approval letter will be issued to the approved applicant and the Sponsor.

An approved applicant who:

- does not require a visa for travel to Singapore prior to the COVID-19 pandemic will not need to apply for a visa;
- requires a visa for travel to Singapore will have to apply for a visa through the usual channels;
- has an existing valid visa for travel to Singapore will not be required to apply for a new visa.

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In addition, an approved applicant must submit health and travel history declarations electronically via the SG Arrival Card before entering Singapore.

2. Pre-departure health measures

Just like a traveller from Singapore to China under the fast lane arrangements, an approved applicant travelling to Singapore must take a PCR test within 48 hours before departure and obtain a certificate of having tested negative for COVID-19.

In addition, the approved application must:

- Have remained in the Relevant Six Chinese Provinces/Municipalities for the last seven days prior to departure for Singapore; and
- produce a (i) valid SafeTravel Pass, (ii) negative PCR test result, (iii) return air ticket and (iv) valid visa (if required) for pre-boarding checks.

3. Post-arrival health measures

Upon arrival in Singapore, an approved applicant must undergo a PCR test. He/she must produce a valid SafeTravel Pass and a negative PCR test result (i.e., the result of the test done prior to departure from China) to gain entry into Singapore.

The applicant must remain in isolation at a self-sourced declared accommodation (non-residential address only) for one to two days until the test result is known. The host company or government agency will transport the traveller directly from the airport to the declared self-sourced accommodation, adhering to prevailing health measures.

An approved applicant who is tested negative for COVID-19 is transported directly from the declared accommodation to the workplace, and back. If tested positive for COVID-19, the approved applicant will undergo medical treatment at his/her cost. The host company or government agency must ensure that the travellers to Singapore use the TraceTogether app for the duration of their stay.

4. Controlled itinerary

For the first 14 days upon arrival in Singapore, an approved applicant must adhere to a controlled itinerary that is supervised by the host company or government agency. He/she must not use public transportation and should only commute by private hire cars/taxis or cohorted company transport.

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Further Information

Visit our [COVID-19 Resource Centre](#) for views from our lawyers across the region on common issues and legal implications brought about by COVID-19. For specific inquiries, please reach out to your relationship partner or send an email to our [COVID-19 Legal Team](#) which comprises our Partners listed below.

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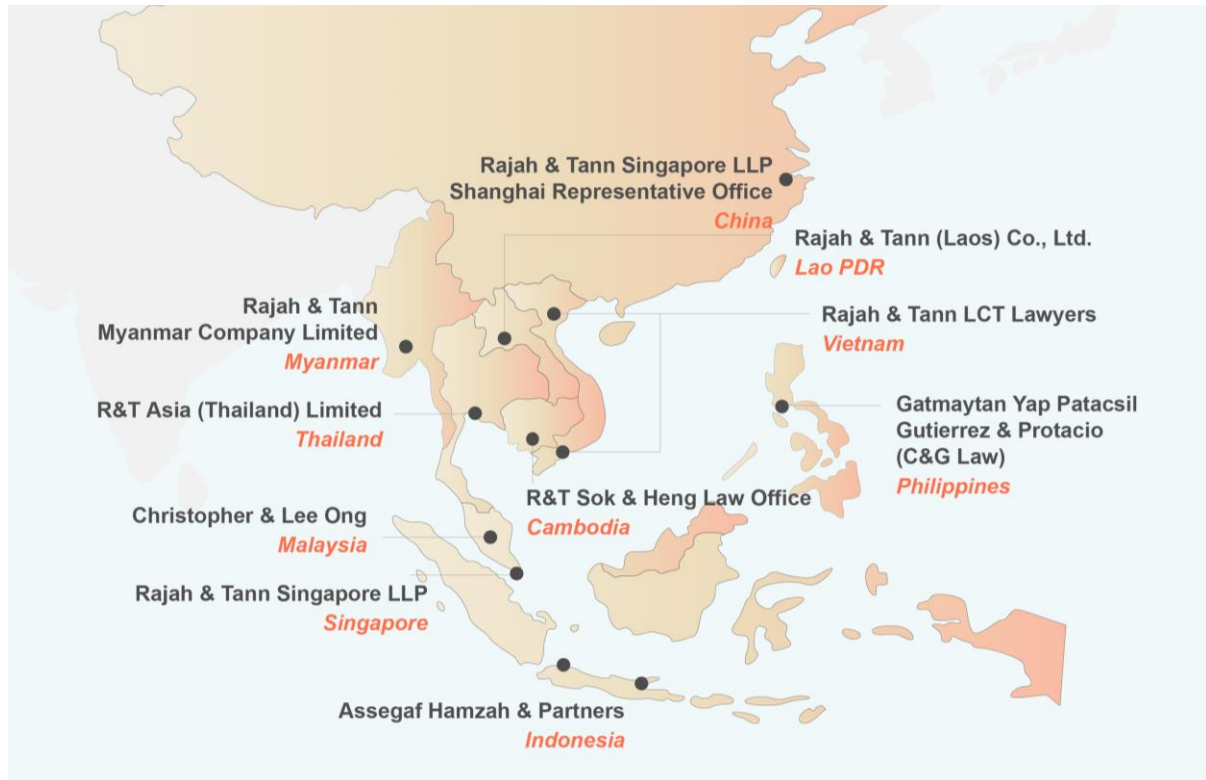
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