

News International

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Dear Sir or Madam,

In an era of globalisation, issues concerning the taxation of internationally working employees are becoming increasingly important.

In 2018, the BMF (German Federal Ministry of Finance) published a new circular on the "Fiscal treatment of wages under double taxation treaties", immediately applicable to all open cases upon request.

In addition to adjustments to the OECD Model Convention, changed case law and amendments to the law, this latest circular has now also incorporated the 2005 BMF circular on tax exemption for foreign income.

Amendments and clarifications have been made, for example in the following points:

- As previously, a posted employee is not typically integrated into the client enterprise for stays of up to three months; however the actual circumstances of individual cases are always decisive. The idea of a simplification rule is thus largely nullified.
- Signing bonuses are credited in the country of the new employment, spread over the term of the contract.
- The statements on the taxation of severance payments in the former country of employment have been completely revised due to Section 50d (12) of the German Income Tax Act (EStG), applicable since 2017.

- Payments from a time-value account are taxed in the country that held the right to taxation during the contribution period.
- In cases of irrevocable exemption, the country of residence irrespective of the place of residence - has the right to tax the remuneration paid.

Internationally working employees are also increasingly becoming a focus of attention for social insurance law. Even for such postings as short business trips abroad, employees must apply for the document known as the A1 certificate (exclusively in electronic format from 2019) before the start of a business trip and carry it with them. This should be presented as proof of the employee's social insurance obligation in the event of a control. In particular, supervisory authorities in France and Austria carried out an increased number of checks in 2018, through ad hoc controls at airports, assembly points and on motorways, which have led to severe fines being imposed in cases of infringement.

If you intend to hire workers from other EU countries or to post your own workers abroad, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards

Nicola Wilks

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Company presentation



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