



news flash

October 2013



EPFO Launches Online Transfer Claim Portal

Launch of Portal

On 2 October 2013, the Employees Provident Fund Organization (“EPFO”) launched its Online Transfer Claim Portal (“OTCP”) for facilitating transfer of a provident fund account when an employee changes jobs. Until the launch of this facility, an employee was required to file Form K with the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner in order to facilitate the transfer of his provident fund account.

Procedure

In order to file an online claim on the OTCP, an employee’s ‘Member ID’ must be available in the EPFO database. Additionally, an employer is required to register the digital signature of its authorized representative with the Regional Commissioner, EPFO.

To apply for a transfer of a provident fund account on transfer of employment from one establishment to another, an employee would be required to file an online transfer claim. The employee would then be required to take the printout of the transfer claim application, sign it and submit it to the employer for verification which may, at the employee’s discretion, be done by either the previous or present employer. Once verified, the EPFO will transfer the provident fund account to the present employer. Detailed guidelines and process flow instructions have been provided on the EPFO website.

Conclusion

While it appears that the EPFO has taken a step in the right direction, it may experience certain teething problems in the transition process given the short deadline of 31 October 2013. Moreover, the present guidelines and instructions are not clear on the manner of verification to be conducted by the employer and this may lead to confusion while implementing the new procedure.

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For further clarification and details on the above, you may write to the Labour & Employment team comprising of (amongst others) Aliff Fazelbhoj (Senior Partner) at afazelbhoj@almtlegal.com, Kruti Desai (Partner) at kdesai@almtlegal.com, Mallika Noorani (Associate) at mnoorani@almtlegal.com, Apeksha Mattoo (Associate) at amattoo@almtlegal.com, and Aditi Tralshawala (Associate) at atralshawala@almtlegal.com

ALMT Offices

Mumbai:

4th Floor, Express Towers,
Nariman Point,
Mumbai 400-021
India
Tel: +91 22 4001 0000
Email: mumbai@almtlegal.com

Bangalore:

2 Lavelle Road,
Bangalore 560 001
India
Tel: +91 80 4016 0000
Email: bangalore@almtlegal.com

New Delhi:

506 DLF Place Mall Office,
Block District Centre,
Saket, New Delhi 110 017
India
Tel: +91 11 4944 5566
Email: delhi@almtlegal.com

London

330, High Holborn,
1st Floor
London WC1V 7QT
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 20 7203 6707
Email: london@almtlegal.com