

Saudi Arabia: Abolishment of the Yellow Band from the Nitaqat Program

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Abstract

The Minister of Human Resources and Social Development passed an order to abolish the yellow band of the Nitaqat Program. Under the Nitaqat program, companies in Saudi Arabia were required to hire a certain number of local individuals to reduce the state's unemployment rate. The companies are categorized based on their compliance with the Nitaqat program. The higher the compliance rate, the more foreign nationals a company can employ. The yellow band companies were near the bottom, which is red. Now, the companies in the yellow band will be moved to the red band, and they will not be able to issue more visas for foreign nationals or renew their work permit.