

The relevance of Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) for Sri Lankan expatriates overseas

The Inland Revenue Department has informed the Instructions for Tax Payer Identification Number (TIN) for Sri Lanka expatriates are as follows;

- In terms section 102(1) of Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017 (IRA) “ Every person liable to furnish a return of income for a year of assessment and who has not already registered, shall register with the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue (CGIR) not later than thirty days after the end of the basis period for that year”
- Further in terms of the Section 102 (3) of the Inland Revenue Act, the Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 2334/21 dated 31/5/2023 has specified additional categories encompassing individual “ who is at the age of 18 years of more as at 31/12/2023 or who attains the age of 18 years on or after 01/01/2024, after attaining the age of 18 years”
- The Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 2334/21 dated 31.05.2023 applies to individuals considered Resident Person in Sri Lanka. According to the Inland Revenue Department , the respective individual will be classified as a Resident Person in Sri Lanka for a given assessment year , if he/she:
 - a. Resides in Sri Lanka:
 - b. Is present in Sri Lanka during the year and that presence falls within a period of or periods amounting in aggregate to 183 days or more in any 12 month period that commence or ends during the year:
 - c. Is an employee or an official of the government of Sri Lanka and his spouse is posted abroad during the year : or
 - d. Is an individual who is employed in Sri Lanka ship, within the meaning of the Merchant Shipping Act during the period the individual is so employed

In this context, the specified gazette notification does not apply to individuals who are not residents of Sri Lanka, and as a result, Sri Lankan non- residents are not required to undergo the registration process for Taxpayer Identification No.

However, the 2024 government budget has proposed the compulsory inclusion of Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) or specific activities in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, any non resident individual intending to engage in the following activities are required to register with the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue:

- Opening a current account
- Obtaining approval for a building plan
- Registering a motor vehicle, renewing the renew license
- Registering title deeds on lands

For the registration procedure, please refer the notice published on 27/12/2023 on the Inland Revenue Web Portal www.ird.gov.lk (Useful information: News/Notices)