



Immigration News Highlights

2022-46, 15 November 2022



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



Americas

Canada

Transitioning in National Occupational Classification System expected

Canadian authorities announced that they shall be transitioning to the 2021 National Occupational Classification system on 16 November 2022. The current 2016 NOC skill type and skill level structure being followed (NOC O, A, B, C and D) shall now be replaced by a six-category system that will represent the training, level of education, experience, and responsibilities (TEER) required to be employed in an occupation. Thus, current, and future applicants are required to use the new codes while inputting employment details in their profiles.

[Read More](#)

Ecuador

Ecuador is launching a digital nomad visa

Ecuadorian authorities announced the launch of a new digital nomad category visa called Rentista. Under this visa, remote workers will be allowed to stay in the country for two years. To qualify for the visa, one would be required to have a valid passport, a clean criminal record, and a proof of foreign income equal to or exceeding EUR 1,266 per month.

[Read More](#)

United States

List of countries eligible for H-2A, H-2B visas published

The US Department of Homeland Security has published a list of countries whose residents shall be eligible for the upcoming H-2A and H-2B visa programs. All nationals who were eligible the previous year shall remain eligible in the following year also. Nationals of those countries not mentioned in the list shall be considered on a case-by-case basis for the visa categories.

[Read More](#)

United States

Visa interviews to be resumed at US Embassy in Havana

The US Embassy in Havana announced the reopening of interviews for all immigrant visa categories from 4 January 2023. This also includes processing for immediate relative, family preference, diversity visa and K fiancé(e) visa categories. The appointment notices for the interviews scheduled for January 2023 shall be sent out after 10 November 2022.

[Read More](#)



Asia Pacific

China

China eases Covid measures, cutting quarantine and scrapping flight bans

Chinese authorities announced the easing of COVID-related travel restrictions. The quarantine period for foreign arrivals shall be reduced from 10 days to 8 days, including 5 days of state center isolation and 3 days of home isolation. Travelers would also be required to show only one negative COVID test taken within 48 hours of boarding a flight to China.

[Read More](#)

India

US set to extend interview waiver facility to more visa categories

The US Embassy in India announced the expansion of the drop box facility to several other visa categories, including student visas, business and tourist visas, and skilled workers visas. The facility allows applicants to renew their US visa without an in-person interview. Persons who have already received their visas are also eligible for the interview waiver.

[Read More](#)

Iran

Iran Introduces Visa-Free Regime for Kazakh Citizens

Iran announced a visa-free regime for Kazakh citizens, applicable from 11 November 2022. Visitors from Kazakhstan will be allowed to stay in Iran for up to 14 days and will be able to come to the country every six months. The measure aims to create a favorable investment climate, expand business, and increase tourism.

[Read More](#)

Kazakhstan

Knowledge of Kazakh to be made citizenship requirement

The Kazakh government has introduced a draft legislation which would require foreign nationals applying for citizenship to display command over Kazakh and be knowledgeable about the country's history and legislation. Applicants who do not meet the criteria may not be outright rejected, however, it may be a pretext for denial in certain cases.

[Read More](#)

Jordan

Qatar plans to open new visa center in Jordan

The Qatari Ministry of Interior announced the opening of a new visa center in Jordan. The center will be used for issuing visas and to facilitate procedures for acquisition of a residence permit.

[Read More](#)

Thailand

Thailand expands e-Visa service to 23 countries

Thai authorities announced the expansion of e-visa services to nine additional countries, now making it possible for online visa applications in 23 countries. The applicant can complete the visa process on the Thai E-Visa website.

[Read More](#)

United Arab Emirates

UAE Golden Visa holders can now sponsor parents on 10-year residency

United Arab Emirates announced that holders of the UAE Golden Visa are now allowed to sponsor their parents for a 10 year residency. This measure was introduced as a part of the significantly expanded scope of the Golden Visa Scheme announced by the country earlier.

[Read More](#)

United Arab Emirates

UAE visa overstay fines cut from AED 100 to AED 50 per day

Emirati authorities announced updated visa overstay fines for certain visa types. The overstay fine for visitor visa holders has been reduced from AED 100 to AED 50 per day. Holders of residence visa will be fined AED 50, increased from AED 25 per day.

[Read More](#)



Europe and Africa



Kenya

Kenya, South Africa to begin mutual visa-free system in January

Kenya and South Africa have reached an agreement to allow visa-free visit to South Africa for Kenyan nationals, valid for up to 90 days in a calendar year. The move was in response to the fact that South Africans get free visas on arrival in Kenya, whereas Kenyans were charged for South African visas, along with having to go through several other formalities.

[Read More](#)

Turkey

Hungarians Now Allowed to Enter Turkey With IDs

Turkey announced that Hungarian nationals visiting the country would no longer be required to present a passport to enter Turkey. Instead, they will only be required to show a valid identity document. This measure was introduced to promote tourism to the country.

[Read More](#)

Ukraine

Ukraine & Lithuania Agree to Permit Each Other's Citizens to Change Their Driver's License Without Taking Exams

Ukraine and Lithuania signed an agreement on exempting nationals belonging to either of the countries from the requirement to pass practical exams in order to change their drivers' licenses issued in the other country.

[Read More](#)



Thomas Wolf
Head of KPMG's Global
Immigration Network
T: +49 30 530 199-300
E: twolf@kpmg-law.com

[social.kpmg](#)



[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

© 2022 Copyright owned by one or more of the KPMG International entities. KPMG International entities provide no services to clients. All rights reserved.

KPMG refers to the global organization or to one or more of the member firms of KPMG International Limited ("KPMG International"), each of which is a separate legal entity. KPMG International Limited is a private English company limited by guarantee and does not provide services to clients. For more detail about our structure please visit <https://home.kpmg/governance>.

Member firms of the KPMG network of independent firms are affiliated with KPMG International. KPMG International provides no client services. No member firm has any authority to obligate or bind KPMG International or any other member firm vis-à-vis third parties, nor does KPMG International have any such authority to obligate or bind any member firm.

