



Immigration News Highlights

Issue 08 – 22 February 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.



Americas

Canada

Government of Canada lightens border measures as part of transition of the pandemic response

The Canadian government will ease entry restrictions for fully vaccinated travelers from 28 February 2022. Fully vaccinated travelers will no longer be required to undergo pre-entry testing. Instead, some of these travelers will be randomly selected for COVID-19 testing. Unvaccinated travelers will be required to take a COVID-19 test on the first and eighth day after arrival and observe a 14-day quarantine. [Read more.](#)

United States

DHS Proposes Fair and Humane Public Charge Rule

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposed a regulation on application of “public charge” ground of inadmissibility. DHS proposed a return to the historical understanding of the term ‘public charge’ which will formalize a longstanding guidance which is applied till today. The proposed rule is expected to continue to exclude noncash benefits from the public charge inadmissibility determination, such as food and nutrition assistance (SNAP), the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), most Medicaid benefits, housing benefits and transportation vouchers, pandemic assistance, tax credits and deductions and other earned benefits. [Read more.](#)

United States

USCIS Urges Eligible Applicants to Switch Employment-Based Categories

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services asked eligible applicants to transfer the underlying basis of their adjustment of status application to the first or second employment-based preference categories due to exceptionally high number of employment-based immigrant visas available in these categories during this fiscal year. [Read more.](#)

United States

Visa Bulletin for March 2022

The State Department released the March Visa Bulletin, showing priority-date cutoffs will remain the same for all employment-based categories next month. [Read more](#)

Venezuela

Costa Rica imposes visa requirements for Venezuelans as migration surges

From 21 February 2022, Venezuelans will need an entry visa to enter Costa Rica after a surge in migration from Venezuela. [Read more](#)



Asia Pacific

Australia

Agriculture visa for foreign workers could be capped at 1,000 per country, DFAT says

Australia's new agriculture visa which allowed British citizens to work on farms could initially be capped at 1,000 foreign workers. The Visa allows British backpackers work on farms to extend their visas. [Read more](#)

India

[India-UAE agree on liberalized visa regime under newly inked FTA](#)

India and the UAE agreed on a liberalized visa regime for Indians allowing a three-year visa for intra-corporate transferees, and a 90-day visa for business visitors and contractual service suppliers. The regime is a part of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries. [Read more](#)

India

[India, Philippines agree on having a simplified visa regime](#)

India and the Philippines agreed for introduction of a simplified visa regime between the two countries as part of a business, tourism, and student exchange deal between the two countries. [Read more](#)

Indonesia

[Indonesia changes quarantine norms for certain travelers](#)

Indonesia changed the mandatory quarantine requirements based on vaccination status of passengers. The quarantine period was reduced to three days for all travelers who have taken a COVID-19 booster dose. Travelers who have taken two days of a COVID-19 vaccine need to observe five days of quarantine. [Read more](#)

New Zealand

[2021 Resident Visa applications to open early for up to 10,500 people](#)

The New Zealand government announced that it will allow up to 10,500 people who were eligible to apply for a 2021 Resident Visa from 1 March 2022 will be able to submit their applications from 21 February 2022. [Read more](#)

Philippines

[Philippines to provide residency through Oz token staking](#)

The Philippines is offering residency in the Freeport Area of Bataan, one of its special economic zones known as ecozones with low tax rates, for users staking the utility token of Oz Finance, TOTOZ. Based on the amount staked, users get individual or business residency with immigration assistance from Oz Finance. [Read more](#)

Singapore

[Resetting our measures to live with the Omicron variant](#)

The Singaporean government eased the entry restrictions on 22 February 2022. Individuals holding an Employment Pass, Dependent Pass, Long-Term Visit Pass or S Pass can now enter Singapore with their Long-Term Passes and a valid COVID-19 vaccination certificate. Further, travelers must carry out a Stay-Home Notice for seven days instead of 14 days and must take a supervised self-administered rapid test at designated testing centers within 24 hours after arrival. [Read more](#)

Taiwan

[Foreign caregivers eligible for permanent residency in Taiwan](#)

Taiwan's ministry of labor approved a proposal by the Ministry of Labor (MOL) to enable foreign caregivers to apply for permanent residence within five years after meeting certain qualifications. Foreign caregivers can obtain an Alien Permanent Resident Certificate (APRC) within five years of achieving an "intermediate skilled manpower" classification. [Read more](#)

Taiwan

[Taiwan enables foreign blue-collar workers to apply for permanent residency](#)

Taiwan's Ministry of Labor approved plans to provide citizenship programs for foreign blue-collar workers. The measure intends to combat labor shortage in the country. The program will be open to all blue-collar workers who have been working for five years in Taiwan, are skilled in technology, and meet certain salary level. The program will offer two citizenship pathways of industry and social welfare. [Read more](#)



Europe and Africa

Austria

[Austria to Accept Test Certificates as Valid Proof for Entry](#)

From 12 February 2022, Austria plans to allow entry of persons holding a valid test certificate. Austria currently allows entry only to vaccinated and recovered travelers. However, under the new rules,

travelers having a negative test result will also be able to enter Austria without being subject to additional pre-entry rules. [Read more](#)

Belgium

[Belgium Ends Testing Requirements for Several Countries](#)

Belgium announced that fully vaccinated, recovered, or tested-negative travelers are permitted to enter Belgium exempted from additional test requirements from 18 February 2022. Moreover, Belgian residents coming from epidemiologically unsafe countries who can't present a vaccination, recovery or test certificate must perform a rapid antigen or PCR test within 24 hours of arrival. [Read more](#)

Bulgaria

[Bulgarian Parliament Backs Plans to Abolish Golden Passport Scheme](#)

The Bulgarian National Assembly approved the Law on Bulgarian Citizenship to abolish the golden visa scheme which grants Bulgarian citizenship to third-country nationals in exchange for investments in the country. [Read more](#)

Bulgaria

[Bulgaria Removes Switzerland, Belgium, Portugal & France from Dark Red Category – Adds Netherlands](#)

Bulgaria removed Switzerland, Belgium, Portugal, and France from dark red category while adding Netherlands to the list on 17 February 2022. Travelers coming from these countries need to provide a vaccination certificate or a PCR test certificate taken within 72 hours of departure, or an antigen test certificate taken within 24 hours of departure to Bulgaria. [Read more](#)

Czech Republic

[Czechia to Keep in Place Traffic Light System for Foreign Travelers](#)

On 21 February 2022, Czech Republic introduced a traffic light system for the entry of foreigners. The system classifies countries in color-coded zones based on the state of COVID-19 infections. Travelers coming in Czech Republic will be subject to the rules based on the color-coded system. All travelers coming from the European Union are required to fill an arrival form and present a valid vaccination certificate. [Read more](#)

Estonia

[Estonia Removes Additional Requirements for Vaccinated EU/Schengen Arrivals](#)

From 21 February 2022, Estonian authorities abolished the pre-entry testing requirements for vaccinated and recovered travelers coming from the European Union and the Schengen Zone. Unvaccinated travelers coming from the Zones need to provide a negative COVID-19 pre-entry test or take a post-entry test and remain quarantined until the results. [Read more](#)

European Union

[EU Accepts COVID-19 Certificates of 2 More Third Countries as Equivalent to the EU Digital COVID Certificate](#)

The European Union recognized the COVID-19 certificates issued by Benin and Jordan as equivalent to the EU Digital COVID Certificates issued by the Member States. The measure entered into force on 17 February 2022, effectively allowing travelers from these two countries to enter the EU under the same rules as EU Digital COVID Certificates holders. [Read more](#)

Finland

[Finland No Longer Requires COVID-19 Test Results for Vaccinated Travelers from Third Countries](#)

From 15 February 2022, all vaccinated travelers can enter Finland without being subject to additional testing requirements. Unvaccinated travelers still need to provide a valid reason of entry in Finland. [Read more](#)

Germany

[Brits & Americans Can Now Travel to Germany Under Facilitated Entry Rules](#)

Germany removed the US and the UK from its high-risk list. Fully vaccinated travelers from these two countries can now enter Germany without observing mandatory quarantine and registering their entry. Unvaccinated travelers can only enter Germany for an essential purpose after providing a negative COVID-19 test and observing a ten-day quarantine period. [Read more](#)

Germany

[Germany Removes Spain, Andorra, French Overseas Territories & 17 Third Countries from High-Risk List](#)

On 20 February 2022, Germany removed Spain, Andorra, French Overseas Territories, and 17 other third countries from the high-risk list due to reduced rate of COVID-19 infections. Travelers from these countries are no longer required to register themselves before entry and to observe a

quarantine. However, they are still required to provide a vaccination certificate or a certificate which shows the holder has recovered or tested negative. [Read more](#)

Greece

[Greece Extends Current Restrictions Until March 7](#)

The Greek authorities announced that vaccinated and recovered travelers coming from the European Union and all other countries that have joined the EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate gateway will be exempted from pre-entry testing. Travelers coming from all other countries need to present a negative PCR test taken 72 hours or a negative antigen test taken 24 hours before entry in Greece. [Read more](#)

Latvia

[Latvia to Ease Entry Rules for Internationals from March 1](#)

Latvia plans to ease entry requirements from 1 March 2022. It plans to remove the essential reason to travel requirement. The travelers will be required to present vaccination certificate, or a negative COVID-19 test result. [Read more.](#)

Lithuania

[Lithuania Exempts Travelers from Several Countries from Passenger Locator Form Requirement](#)

Lithuania exempted travelers coming from the European Economic Area (EEA), Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, and the Vatican City from providing a Passenger Locator Form (PLF). Travelers from these countries are also exempt from testing and self-isolation requirements regardless of their vaccination status. Also, travelers from several third countries can enter Lithuania if their home country or country of residence issues and recognizes the EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate. [Read more.](#)

Netherlands

[Travel: Netherlands to Remove Quarantine Requirement on February 25](#)

The Dutch government will lift mandatory quarantine requirements for vaccinated and recovered travelers coming from high-risk countries starting from 25 February 2022. A negative COVID-19 test will still be needed to enter the country. [Read more.](#)

Slovakia

[Slovaks Living Abroad Soon to Be Able to Hold Dual Citizenship](#)

The government of Slovakia approved a law that allows Slovak nationals living abroad to hold dual citizenship. Slovaks receiving foreign citizenship will no longer lose their Slovakian citizenship provided they have been living in a foreign country for at least five years. The measure will enter into force from 1 April 2022. [Read more](#)

Slovenia

[Slovenia Lifts COVID-19 Certificate, Testing & Quarantine Requirement for All Travelers](#)

All travelers entering Slovenia are now subject to milder entry rules. Slovenia's Ministry of the Interior abolished the requirement to provide a vaccination certificate, a negative result of the COVID-19 test, or recovery proof before entering the country, from 21 February 2022. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Spain Prolongs Current Travel Restrictions for EU/Schengen Area Countries](#)

Travelers from European Union and Schengen Area countries will continue to be subject to entry rules before entering Spain. All travelers must fill a health control form and provide a valid vaccine certificate that falls under the EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate. [Read more](#)

Switzerland

[Switzerland to Lift All COVID-19 Travel Requirements & Other Restrictions](#)

On 17 February 2022, Switzerland removed the requirements to provide a vaccination certificate, recovery or a negative test or complete an entry form. The measure was taken based on the high level of immunity against COVID-19 among the population. [Read more](#)

United Kingdom

[UK scraps rich foreign investor visa scheme](#)

UK will abolish the Tier 1 investing visa which offered residency in exchange of a minimum investment of GBP 2 million. The visa offering will be abolished due to failure of creating employment opportunities in the UK. [Read more](#)



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