



Immigration News Highlights

2023-30, 25 July 2023



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

United States

Israel's travel policy announcement

The Government of United States announced that it welcomes the changes of Israel's travel procedures for US citizens for short-term visits, including transit. These updated policies, effective from 20 July 2023, will permit all US citizens to travel to Israel through any entry point, including Ben Gurion Airport.

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United States

White House reviewing H-2 proposed regulations from Department of Homeland Security, Department of Health, and Human Services

The Government of United States is examining two proposed regulations with the objective of modernizing H-2 visa programs. The Department of Homeland Security intends to release a proposed regulation aimed at updating and improving the H-2A and H-2B nonimmigrant worker programs.

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United States

[USCIS updates policy manual to make it easier to identify who is subject to the public charge ground of inadmissibility](#)

USCIS has integrated crucial details pertaining to the groups of adjustment of status applicants who are subject to the public charge ground of inadmissibility from the appendices in Volume 8, Part G, of the USCIS Policy Manual into “Chapter 3, Applicability”.

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United States

[USCIS to publish revised form I-9](#)

The Government of United States will release an updated edition of Form I-9 on 1 August 2023, which is used for employment eligibility verification that includes enhancements, such as a checkbox that allows employers enrolled in e-verify to indicate that they have remotely reviewed identity and employment authorization documents using an alternative procedure authorized by the Department of Homeland Security.

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United States

[USCIS updates visa availability approach for managing form I-526 petition inventory](#)

The Government of United States announced that USCIS plans to enhance the efficiency of managing the inventory of Form I-526, the Immigrant Petition by Alien Investor, by updating its visa availability approach. This approach will allow USCIS to acquire greater processing proficiencies and decrease backlogs.

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Asia Pacific

China

[China to resume 15-day visa-free entry for citizens of Singapore and Brunei](#)

The Government of China announced it will reintroduce its 15-day visa-free entry for citizens of Singapore and Brunei starting from 26 July 2023. After implementing strict travel restrictions as part of its zero-Covid policy, China suspended visas for a period of three years. These restrictions were lifted in December 2022.

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Kazakhstan

[Kazakhstan adopts visa-free entry system for Gulf Cooperation Council \(GCC\) countries](#)

The Government of Kazakhstan has implemented a visa-free entry system for citizens of GCC countries. The visa-free entry system seeks to improve travel and tourism between Kazakhstan and the GCC countries.

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Oman

Artists, intellectuals hail 10-year cultural visa in Oman

The Government of Oman has announced the introduction of a ten-year cultural visa for writers, artists and intellectuals who can collaborate with the sultanate, aimed at fostering art and culture in Oman.

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Philippines

eServices platform announced

The Government of Philippines has announced the introduction of an immigration eServices portal. This aims to allow individuals to conveniently submit various immigration forms, such as applications for entry waivers, emigration clearance certificates, dual citizenship forms, and temporary visitor extension applications.

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Europe and Africa

Cyprus

Cyprus to join Schengen Information System (SIS) from 25 July 2023

The Government of Cyprus has announced that it will join SIS on 25 July 2023 to facilitate cooperation between service immigration, police and customs. It also aims at attaining freedom of movement within EU's Schengen Area.

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Denmark

Denmark to apply updated wage conditions for skilled workers

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) announced that the updated wage statistics will be applicable to foreign skilled workers who are applying for jobs on the positive list.

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European Union

[European Union to require US travelers with passports to fill out visa application](#)

The European Union announced that from 2024, travelers with US passports will be required to fill out an online visa application, known as the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS), before being granted entry into the European Union.

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Germany

[Germany takes measures to appoint skilled workers from India, starting with nurses](#)

The German Federal Employment Agency and the German Society for International Cooperation is making ongoing efforts to attract skilled workers from India, specifically focusing on nurses. To make the process easier, the German government has relaxed visa regulations and simplified the recognition process for foreign qualifications.

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Portugal

[Portugal ends 2 Golden Visa routes in a final approval of More Housing Program](#)

The Government of Portugal has updated the Golden Visa Program, a part of the More Housing Program. These changes involve ending the issuance of new residence permits for investments in housing and introducing the option to transfer a minimum of EUR1.5 million into a Portuguese bank account.

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United Kingdom

[Introduction of visa requirement for Honduran nationals visiting UK](#)

The UK Government announced on 19 July 2023 that visa will be required for all Hondurans travelling to UK, with immediate effect. During the transition period, visitors who made their travel bookings before 15:00 BST on 19 July 2023 can still enter the UK until 15:00 BST on 16 August 2023.

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United Kingdom

[UK announces second ballot for India professional scheme](#)

The Government of UK announced a second ballot for the India Young Professionals Scheme. This scheme is open to Indian citizens between the ages of 18 and 30 who have a bachelor's degree or higher qualification and GBP2,530 in savings to support themselves in the UK.

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United Kingdom

UK relaxes visa rules to attract foreign construction workers

The UK Government announced that it has expanded its "shortage occupation list" to include several construction roles, making it easier for the building industry to recruit staff from overseas to fill vacant positions. Workers in these shortage occupations can be paid 80 percent of the standard rate for the job and still be eligible for a visa. To apply, individuals must have a job offer from an employer and meet the English language requirement.

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