



# Immigration News Highlights

2022-09, 1 March 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.



## United States

### [Premium processing for work permits for H-1B spouses' inches towards reality?](#)

A rule that would expand premium processing to additional benefit request types has cleared Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review. The rule, if implemented, will require a 60-day pre-implementation delay. [Read more.](#)

## United States

### [USCIS Reaches Fiscal Year 2022 H-1B Cap](#)

USCIS announced that it has received enough petitions to reach the congressionally mandated 65,000 H-1B visa regular cap and the 20,000 H-1B visa U.S. advanced degree exemption for the fiscal year 2022. [Read more.](#)

## United States

### [These US visa applicants in India are exempt from in-person interview. Details here](#)

The United States has waived off in-person interview requirements for Indian visa applicants who have applied or will apply for students (F, M, and academic J visas), workers (H-1, H-2, H-3, and individual L visas), Culture and extraordinary ability (O, P, and Q visas), through 31 December 2022. [Read more.](#)

## United States

### [USCIS Launches H-2A Employer Data Hub](#)

USCIS launched a H-2A Employer Data Hub to inform public about the employers or agents petitioning for H-2A workers. The Data Hub aims to increase transparency in employment-based visa programs. [Read more](#)



## India

### [India-UAE CEPA to come into effect in one month: Envoy](#)

The proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and UAE is expected to come into force by April 2022. The Agreement offers golden visa, green visa, and entrepreneur visa to foreign citizens to live, work and study in UAE. [Read more](#)

## Israel

### ['Entry of Non-Israeli Citizens by Air](#)

From 1 March 2022, tourist and foreign workers can enter Israel regardless of their vaccination status, without observing a quarantine upon arrival. Travelers are required to provide a negative PCR test

taken within 72 hours before departure or an antigen test taken within 24 hours before departure. A second PCR test is also needed upon arrival. [Read more](#)

### Japan

#### **[Border measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)**

The Japanese government eased entry requirements from 1 March 2022. Foreign nationals and business travelers will be allowed to enter if the sponsoring organization has successfully applied for an exemption. Further, the quarantine requirements will reduce from seven to three days for those who receive negative test results on the pre-departure test, post-arrival test and on the test taken on the third day of quarantine. Also, quarantine requirements will be waived for fully vaccinated travelers coming from low-risk countries. [Read more](#)

### Oman

#### **[Oman work visa fee review completed: Minister](#)**

Oman's Ministry of Labor is reviewing the fees charged for issuance of work visas for expatriates in Oman. [Read more](#)

### Thailand

#### **[Long-stay visa to waive personal income tax](#)**

Thai cabinet approved waiving of personal income tax for three foreign groups of taxpayers: high-income earners, retirees and those who want to work remotely from Thailand. The beneficiaries would be considered as investors in Thailand, investing or earning a certain amount of money based on their categories, and will be offered long-term residence (LTR) visas. [Read more](#)

### Thailand

#### **[Thailand to ease COVID-19 requirements for international travelers from Mar 1](#)**

Thailand eased its COVID-19 test requirements for international travelers from 1 March 2022. Under the new requirements, travelers are only required to undergo one RT-PCR test upon arrival, followed by a self-administered antigen test five days later. A pre-entry RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours of entry is also needed. The Thai government also reduced the amount of travel insurance coverage from USD 50,000 to USD 20,000. [Read more](#)



## Europe and Africa

### Austria

#### **[Austria Now Accepts COVID-19 Tests as Valid Proof for Entry](#)**

From 22 February 2022, Austria allowed travelers to enter under facilitated entry rules provided they hold a valid certificate that indicates that the holder has been vaccinated, tested, or recovered from the virus. [Read more](#)

### Czech Republic

#### **[Czechia Adds Malta to Red List – Continues to Apply Color-Coded System for Other EU Countries](#)**

Czech Republic added Malta to the red list. Czech Republic follows a color-coded system for all incoming travelers. Currently, Czech Republic's red list includes all European Union countries except the Vatican City State. Travelers coming from red-list countries must fill an arrival form and must present a valid vaccination pass. [Read more](#)

### Denmark

#### **[Denmark to Facilitate Entry Rules for EU & Non-EU Travelers From March 1](#)**

From 1 March 2022, all travelers coming from the European Union and the Schengen Area can enter Denmark without observing any additional entry rules, regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status. Travelers coming from third countries must take a pre-entry COVID-19 test, within 24 hours of entry, if they have been vaccinated more than 180 days before the entry. Vaccinated travelers who have taken their last dose within 180 days from entry need not take a pre-entry test. [Read more](#)

### Germany

#### **[Germany to Lift Quarantine Requirement for Children Travelling from High-Risk Countries](#)**

Germany plans to remove the quarantine requirement for children above the age of 12 coming from high-risk countries considering the reduced severity of Omicron infections. [Read more](#)

### Iceland

#### **[Iceland to Lift All Domestic & Border Restrictions on February 25](#)**

Iceland lifting all COVID-19 restrictions on 25 February 2022, including pre-entry restrictions, for both the vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers. [Read more](#)

#### Isle of Man

#### [Isle of Man visas relaxed to attract seasonal hospitality staff](#)

Isle of Man relaxed the visa rules for seasonal workers in the hospitality industry. People from the European Union can apply to work for nine months if they have work lined up with a local firm. [Read more](#)

#### Isle of Man

#### [Investor Visa route to the Isle of Man scrapped](#)

The Isle of Man scrapped new applicants for its Tier 1 Investor visa which allowed high net-worth individuals to stay in the country for 3 years, and further allowed them to gain residency. The measure was undertaken considering the security concerns and lack of investments from these visa holders. [Read more.](#)

#### Italy

#### [Non-EU Travelers Now Permitted to Enter Italy for Travel Purposes](#)

From 1 March 2022, travelers coming from third countries can Italy for travel purposes under facilitated rules where pre-entry testing and non-essential travel ban has been abolished. They are now subject to same entry requirements as European Union nationals. These travelers need to provide a valid vaccination or recovery certificate, or a negative COVID-19 test result. [Read more.](#)

#### Latvia

#### [Vatican City State Remain the Only Country in Latvia's Green List](#)

Currently, the Vatican City State is the only European country in Latvia's green list. The green list includes all the territories that are considered epidemiologically safe based on COVID-19 infections. Further, Taiwan, Macau, and Rwanda are also included in the green list due to low infection rate. All vaccinated travels from green list countries are exempt from additional testing or quarantine rules while entering Latvia. However, unvaccinated, and unrecovered travelers must follow pre-entry testing requirements. [Read more](#)

#### Latvia

#### [Latvia Facilitates Its Entry Rules from Today](#)

Latvia eased its entry rules from 1 March 2022. Travelers only need to provide either a valid COVID-19 vaccination certificate, a proof of vaccination issued by authorities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia or Canada, or a negative result of the PCR test taken within 72 hours of entry, or an antigen test taken within 48 hours of entry, to enter the country. [Read more](#)

#### Lithuania

#### [Lithuania Scraps Color-Coded Categorization – Permits Entry for All Vaccinated Arrivals](#)

The Lithuanian Health Ministry abolished the color-coded system for customizing entry rules of travelers based on their country-of-origin rate of COVID-19 infections. However, unvaccinated travelers coming from third countries are still required to take a pre-entry test within 72 hours of entry. All travelers coming from the European Union, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, and Vatican City, are exempt from the pre-testing requirement, regardless of their vaccination status. [Read more](#)

#### Netherlands

#### [Netherlands Now Applies New Entry Rules](#)

Netherlands updated its entry rules on 25 February 2022, varying them for European Union travelers and third country travelers. Based on the latest rules, all travelers coming from the European Union are required to complete a health declaration form and provide a proof of vaccination or a proof of recovery from the virus. Additionally, all travelers are required to take a pre-entry test. All third country travelers are required to provide a valid COVID-19 vaccination certificate along with a negative pre-entry test. [Read more.](#)

#### Portugal

#### [Portugal Now Allows Non-Essential Travel from Canada](#)

Portugal lifted its travel restrictions, thus, allowing Canadian nationals to enter Portugal for non-essential purpose. Canadian nationals are required to undergo an RT-PCR within 72 hours of entry or an antigen test taken within 24 hours of entry. [Read more.](#)

### Portugal

#### [\*\*Madeira Extends Current COVID-19 Restrictions Until March 15\*\*](#)

Portugal's autonomous region of Madeira extended COVID-19 rules until 15 March 2022. Travelers must present a completed COVID-19 vaccination certificate with three doses of the vaccine or an incomplete COVID-19 vaccination Certificate (for one or two doses) and a certificate of recovery within 180 days or a certificate of recovery valid for up to 180 days, before entering the region. [Read more.](#)

### South Africa

#### [\*\*New 2022 Critical Skills List published\*\*](#)

South Africa published the new critical skill list for 2022. The list provides a list of occupations and qualifications under which individuals may apply for a Critical Skills Work Visa. The new list replaces the previous 2014 version. The 2022 added new occupations for corporate professionals but removed health-related professions like including nurses, general and specialist medical practitioners and researchers were removed. [Read more](#)

### Spain

#### [\*\*Spain Permits Entry for Travelers from Third Countries With COVID-19 Recovery Certificates\*\*](#)

On 26 February 2022, Spain allowed the entry of third country travelers who have recovered from the COVID-19 virus in the last 180 days. Travelers may provide a recovery certificate issued by a competent authority or a medical service at least 11 days after the first positive NAAT or rapid antigen test is accepted. [Read more](#)

### Spain

#### [\*\*Spain Extends Current Rules for EU/EEA Countries & Adds Peru to Safe List\*\*](#)

Spain extended the entry rules for all European countries until 7 March 2022. All travelers, above the age of 12, must fill out an arriving form. Additionally, all travelers must present a vaccination certificate, a diagnostic test for an active infection or a recovery certificate. [Read more](#)

### Sweden

#### [\*\*Sweden to Facilitate Procedures for Validation of Third Country Nationals' Skills & Competencies\*\*](#)

Sweden proposed to facilitate their skills and education assessment procedures for newcomers to satisfy the requirements of the labor market. Third country nationals would be needed to ensure and provide a valid work contract before the work permit is issued. [Read more](#)

### Switzerland

#### [\*\*Switzerland Wants to Make It Easier for Third Generation Immigrants to Gain Swiss Citizenship\*\*](#)

The Swiss Federation Commission plans to simplify the Swiss citizenship process for third-generation immigrants by removing several bureaucratic procedures and requirements. [Read more](#)

### United Kingdom

#### [\*\*Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): right to work checks\*\*](#)

The Home Office extended temporary COVID-19 right to work check measures until 30 September 2022, requiring employers to conduct checks over video calls, and use employment checker services if an employee can't provide all the documents. Employers must check for original documents or right to work online after 30 September 2022. [Read more](#)



**Thomas Wolf**  
Head of KPMG's Global  
Immigration Network  
T: +49 30 530199-300  
E: [twolf@kpmg-law.com](mailto: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.