



# Immigration News Highlights

2022-10, 8 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.



## Canada

### [Launching the Atlantic Immigration Program to drive economic growth and attract skilled workers](#)

Canada opened the applications for the Atlantic Immigration Program on 6 March 2022. The program aims to attract skilled workforce into the country and meet the labor shortfall. [Read more.](#)

## United States

### [US to resume some visa services in Cuba after 4-year break](#)

The US government plans to resume limited processing of immigrant visas in Havana. For the past four years, Cuban immigration applicants must travel to Georgetown, Guyana for the immigration interview. The US government plans to transfer and process some application at the Havana center. [Read more.](#)

## United States

### [Prevailing Wage Determination Processing Times](#)

The Labor Department has posted updated processing times for permanent labor certification (PERM) applications and prevailing wage determination (PWD) requests. The department adjusted the PERM times to 178 days for adjudication applications and 292 days for audit review applications. [Read more.](#)

## United States

### [H-2B Cap Reached for Second Half of FY 2022](#)

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that it has received enough petitions to meet the congressionally mandated H-2B cap for the second half of FY 22. All H-2B applications received after 25 February 2022 that request an employment start date on or after 1 April 2022 and before 1 October 2022 will be rejected. [Read more.](#)



## Australia

### ['Onshore nil Visa Application Charge \(VAC\) WHM applications](#)

Eligible current and former Working Holiday Makers in Australia who experienced disruptions to domestic travel and employment opportunities during COVID-19 can apply for a WHM visa with a nil VAC from 5 March 2022 to 31 December 2022. [Read more](#)

## Australia

### [Factsheet: Australian Agriculture Visa Program \(7 March 2022\)](#)

The Australian Government issued a factsheet highlighting the rationale behind the introduction of the Australian Agriculture Visa Program. The program is a stream of the Temporary Work subclass 403 Visa and will address the workforce shortage in the agriculture sector. [Read more](#)

## Indonesia

### [New Visa Pricing Announced, More Details Expected in April](#)

The Finance Ministry of Indonesia released a list of new visa prices awaiting the approval of the Immigration Department. The proposal includes changes to length of stay and charges for retirement visas, tourist visas, and other long visit visas. [Read more](#)

## Japan

### [Japan to raise entry limit to 7,000 people a day](#)

The Japanese government plans to raise the daily limit of entrants to Japan from 5,000 to 7,000. The new limit will, if enforced, will be applicable from 14 March 2022. [Read more](#)

## Qatar

### [Qatar Travel and Return Policy](#)

The government of Qatar updated its travel and entry policies on 28 February 2022. The authorities changed country classification to 'Standard Health Measures' and 'Red Health Measures'. Only vaccinated and recovered passengers coming from the Red countries will be allowed to enter Qatar. [Read more](#)

## Saudi Arabia

### [Saudi Arabia lifts Covid-19 restrictions and flight suspensions](#)

On 5 March 2022, Saudi Arabia lifted all precautionary and preventive measures related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Passengers are no longer required to take pre-entry COVID-19 tests and observe a quarantine period. [Read more](#)

## Taiwan

### [Seven-day quarantine possible in April: Health Minister](#)

Taiwan plans to shorten the mandatory quarantine period from ten to seven days in April 2022 considering the rate of infections and vaccinations in the country. [Read more](#)

## Taiwan

### [Taiwan launches new 1990 hotline service for foreign nationals](#)

Taiwan launched a new 1990 hotline to offer consultation services in seven languages to foreign nationals living in the country. The new service will launch on 1 July 2022 and will offer consultation in Mandarin, English, and Japanese around the clock, while Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, and Cambodian will be provided during business hours. [Read more](#)

## Vietnam

### [Health ministry seeks to tighten entry restrictions as inbound tourism reopens](#)

Vietnam changed the mandatory quarantine requirement from 1 day to 3 days for foreign travelers. Foreign travelers will be tested for COVID-19 on the second and third day of their quarantine. [Read more](#)



## Europe and Africa

## Belgium

### [Belgium to Lift Passenger Locator Form Requirement for Travelers from Next Friday](#)

From 11 March 2022, travelers reaching Belgium will no longer be needed to present a Passenger Locator Form (PLF). Passengers travelers from a third country not included in the White list of the European Union must fill a PLF. [Read more](#)

## Cyprus

### [Cyprus Lifts Entry Rules for Fully Vaccinated & Recovered Travelers](#)

Cyprus abolished the travel restrictions for fully vaccinated and recovered travelers. These travelers are no longer required to take pre-entry COVID tests. [Read more](#)

## Czech Republic

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

The Czech Republic's authorities announced that entry rules on foreigners based on their country of origin will continue to apply until a further notice. The traffic light system will continue to be in force for foreign arrivals. [Read more](#)

## Denmark

### [Denmark Applies Facilitated Travel Rules for Non-EU Nationals from Today](#)

From 1 March 2022, Denmark allowed travel from third countries under facilitated rules. Third-country travelers can freely enter Denmark with a valid vaccination certificate or a recovery document not

older than 180 days. Denmark also removed all entry restrictions for the travelers coming from the European Union. [Read more](#)

#### European Union

#### [EU Council Approves Partial Suspension of Visa Waiver Agreement with Vanuatu](#)

On 3 March 2022, the European Union's Council approved a proposal to partially call of the visa waiver agreement with Vanuatu. The measure was taken post evaluation of Vanuatu's Golden Passport scheme considering the risk the risk posed by insufficient background checks of the investor citizenship program to the EU countries. [Read more](#)

#### France

#### [Travelers From Canada, India & Several Other Third Countries Can Now Enter France Restriction-Free](#)

France added Canada, India, and other third countries can now enter France without observing additional entry restrictions. France updated its green list, allowing restriction free entry for all vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers from these countries. [Read more](#)

#### Germany

#### [Official: New Rules for Travel to Germany to Be Applied from March 3](#)

On 3 March 2022, Germany removed all countries from its high-risk list. Travelers from these countries. Thus, all travelers coming need to only present a valid vaccination certificate or a negative COVID-19 test result before entering Germany. [Read more](#).

#### Ghana

#### [Ghana signs visa waiver agreements with Jamaica, Qatar, 6 other countries](#)

Ghana signed visa waiver agreement with Qatar, Jamaica, Suriname, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, Venezuela, and Malta. Officials carrying diplomatic, service, or official passports will be exempt from applying for visas when entering Ghana and vice versa. [Read more.](#)

#### Greece

#### [Greece to Facilitate Entry Requirements for Arrivals From UK](#)

Travelers coming from the United Kingdom planning to enter Greece will no longer be subject to Passenger Locator Form (PLF) if they have been vaccinated. The measure will enter into force on 15 March 2022. However, partially vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers need to present proof of recovery or a negative result of the Coronavirus PCR test taken at most 72 hours before entry, or a negative result of the COVID-19 antigen test taken at most 24 hours before entry. [Read more](#)

#### Greece

#### [Greece to Abolish Passenger Locator Form Requirement for Vaccinated Travelers from March 15](#)

Greece announced that vaccinated internationals planning to enter this country will no longer be required to fill in the detailed passenger form from 15 March 2022. Arrivals from countries that are not subject to restrictions must present a negative result of the PCR test taken within 72 hours of entry or an antigen test taken within 24 hours of entry. [Read more](#)

#### Ireland

#### [Ireland Lifts All Travel Restrictions Imposed Due to COVID-19](#)

The Irish government has lifted entry restrictions due to COVID-19 for travelers coming to Ireland. The Irish government announced that travelers will no longer be required to present a proof of vaccination or recovery and are exempted to fill in the Passenger Locator Form (PLF). The restrictions have been abolished from 6 March 2022. [Read more](#)

#### Luxembourg

#### [Luxembourg Extends Current Entry Restrictions Until End of June](#)

Luxembourg has extended travel restrictions for third-country nationals until 30 June 2022. Third-country nationals will not be allowed to enter Luxembourg for non-essential reasons until June. Further, the vaccination certificates from Benin and Jordan will be recognized for entry. [Read more.](#)

#### Norway

#### [Norway: Svalbard Lifts Testing & Quarantine Requirements & Most of Its COVID-19 Measures](#)

Norway abolished majority of the entry restrictions pertaining to mandatory quarantine and testing for the region of Svalbard on 1 March 2022. Thus, pre-arrival and testing at arrival requirements have been abolished. [Read more.](#)

### Norway

#### [Norway to Make ID Cards Available for Foreigners Living in the Country](#)

The Ministry of Justice and Emergency Preparedness submitted a proposal to provide an ID card to expats having a residence permit or right of residence in Norway for more than three months. [Read more.](#)

### Poland

#### [Poland Shortens Quarantine Period for Unvaccinated & Unrecovered Travelers](#)

The Polish government reduced the mandatory quarantine period for unvaccinated and unrecovered passengers from 14 days to 7 days. Unvaccinated and unrecovered nationals coming from the European Union and Turkey can end the mandatory quarantine by taking a COVID test after the second day of the quarantine while those coming from third countries must serve a quarantine period of 7 days. [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 need to ensure and provide a valid work contract before the work permit is issued. [Read more](#)

### Switzerland

#### [Switzerland to Facilitate Residence & Work Permits Issuance for Skilled Workers from Third Countries](#)

The Swiss government introduced measure to facilitate the procedure for third countries nationals to become workers and residents in Switzerland. The first measure aims at simplifying the administrative hurdles for skilled workers to apply for Swiss work permits. The other measure allows residence permit holders to switch from employment to self-employment. The measures are likely to be implemented in 2022. [Read more](#)

### Switzerland

#### [Switzerland & Cabo Verde Sign Two Migration Agreements](#)

Switzerland and Cabo Verde signed two migration agreements. One agreement addresses of the issuance of short-stay visas for Cabo Verde nationals wishing to travel to Switzerland and vice versa. The second aims at improving the readmission process and speeding up the procedures for identifying and issuing travel documents for citizens of Cabo Verde who remain in Switzerland without a valid permit. [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





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