



# Immigration News Highlights

2022-14, 5 April 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.



## Mexico

### **[The online pre-registration system for Colombian travelers to Mexico is now operational](#)**

On 1 April 2022, the National Migration Institute (INM) pre-registration system for Colombian travelers to Mexico became operational. Colombian travelers reaching Mexico by air must fill out a form on the system to obtain a QR code and Mexico's Multiple Migration Form (FMM). Both must be presented upon arrival. [Read more.](#)

## United States

### **[X Gender Marker Available on U.S. Passports Starting April 11](#)**

From 11 April 2022, US citizens can select an X as their gender marker on their US passport application. No medical documentations would be needed to be submitted if the selected gender is different from other citizenship or identity documents. [Read more.](#)

## United States

### **[Public Comment Period for Form I-9 Extension Open Until May 31, 2022](#)**

The USCIS proposed a new version of the form I-9. The proposed changes will reduce the time required to complete the form, both digitally and on paper. [Read more.](#)

## United States

### **[USCIS Announces New Actions to Reduce Backlogs, Expand Premium Processing, and Provide Relief to Work Permit Holders](#)**

The USCIS announced new measures to increase efficiency and reduce burdens to the legal immigration system. USCIS will establish a new internal cycle time goals to serve as an internal metric that guides the backlog reduction efforts. Further, the USCIS will extend the premium processing of documents to more forms. [Read more.](#)

## United States

### **[DHS and DOL to Supplement the H-2B Cap with Additional Visas for Second Half of Fiscal Year 2022](#)**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Labor (DOL) announced additional 35,000 H-2B temporary nonagricultural worker visas for the second half of FY 22. These visas will be allocated for the US employers seeking to employ additional workers on or after 1 April 2022 through 30 September 2022. [Read more.](#)

## United States

### **[USCIS Service Center Expands Credit Card Payment Pilot Program to All Forms](#)**

The USCIS service centers have started accepting credit card payments using Form G-1450, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions, for all forms. The measure aims to digitize payments using a credit card at all USCIS service centers. [Read more.](#)

## United States

### **[FY 2023 H-1B Cap Season Updates](#)**

USCIS stated that it has received enough electronic registrations during the initial registration period to reach the fiscal year (FY) 2023 H-1B numerical allocations (H-1B cap), including the advanced degree exemption (master's cap). Further, USCIS stated that H-1B cap petitions may be filled starting from 1 April 2022. [Read more.](#)

#### United States

#### [USCIS Extends Flexibility for Responding to Agency Requests](#)

The USCIS extended certain flexibilities to respond to certain requests and notices to the agency through 25 July 2022. The measure was extended on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)



### Asia Pacific

#### Australia

#### [Australia will make special visa arrangements for Indian yoga instructors and chefs under historic trade agreement](#)

Australia will make special visa arrangements for Indian yoga instructors and chefs under the Australia-India Economic and Trade Agreement (AI ECTA). These professionals will receive visas under the skilled migration categories. [Read more](#)

#### Bahrain

#### [Bahrain launches digital residency, passport services for expatriates](#)

Bahrain has launched a national e-government portal for residency and passport issuance services. The measure intends to reduce routine procedures, consolidate digital transformation mechanisms, and preserve the environment. [Read more](#)



### Europe and Africa

#### Bulgaria

#### [Travelers Without Vaccination, Recovery or Test Certificate Cannot Enter Bulgaria, Authorities Confirm](#)

From 1 April 2022 to 15 May 2022, all travelers entering Bulgaria are required to present a valid vaccination, recovery, or test certificate, regardless of their country of origin. Travelers who cannot present either of the three must observe a ten-day post-entry quarantine and will be subject to additional restrictions based on their country of origin. [Read more](#)

#### Cameroon

#### [Cameroon seals deal to set up biometric visa system with Ivorian supplier](#)

Cameroon plans to issue biometric visas and consular cards from 1 June 2022. The measure intends to modernize Cameroon's travel documents issuance system and combat fraud. [Read more](#)

#### Cyprus

#### [Revised policy for employment](#)

The Cyprian Council of Ministers approved new incentives for attracting companies to operate in Cyprus and to enable already operating in Cyprus to expand further their activities in the country. A "Business Facilitation Unit" (BFU) has been introduced by the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, and Industry for fast and efficient processing of requests made by eligible companies. Once registered, these companies may submit applications for the issuance of work permits, in respect of their highly skilled employees from third countries. [Read more](#)

#### Cyprus

#### [Cyprus Digital Nomad Visa Scheme](#)

The Cyprian Council of Ministers introduced a 'Digital Nomad Visa Scheme' for attracting businesses and talent into the country. The Scheme will issue 500 visas to third-country nationals who can perform their work remotely through telecommunications technology, are employed in a company registered outside of Cyprus, for which they can work remotely, or they are self-employed offering services remotely for clients located outside of Cyprus and must have a stable monthly income of at least EUR 3,500. Further, the family members of an individual with a Digital Nomad Visa can obtain a residence permit in Cyprus but cannot be employed or perform any economic activity in the country. [Read more](#)

#### Democratic Republic of Congo

#### [DR Congo joins East Africa trade bloc: Who gains?](#)

The Democratic Republic of Congo has joined the East African Community (EAC) as its seventh member. The membership would allow a visa-free visit for Congolese citizens to other member countries - Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. [Read more](#)

#### Denmark

#### [Denmark Lifts COVID-19 Entry Restrictions for All Third-Country Travelers](#)

The Danish authorities lifted COVID-19 restrictions for incoming third-country travelers. All travelers, regardless of their vaccination status, can enter Denmark without being subject to additional COVID-19 pre-entry restrictions. [Read more](#)

#### Estonia

#### [Estonia Eases COVID-19 Restrictions for Arrivals from Other Countries from Today](#)

From 1 April 2022, incoming travelers from the European Union, European Economic Area, Andorra, Monaco, Switzerland, San Marino, the Vatican City State, and the UK will no longer be required to present a COVID-19 certificate when entering Latvia. However, pre-entry requirements for presenting COVID-19 vaccination certificate, a recovery certificate, or a pre-entry COVID-19 test still apply for third-country nationals. [Read more](#)

#### European Union

#### [Commission Underlines New Rules for Issuance of EU Golden Visas](#)

The European Commission issued a recommendation outlining proposed changes that the Member States must impose on their residence-by-investment programs. The measure intends to prevent people involved in money laundering, tax evasion, and other crimes, from obtaining citizenship in a European Union member state. The Commission proposed strict background checks and verification of continuity of the residence among others. [Read more](#)

#### European Union

#### [EU to Accept COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates Older Than 270 Days for Minors](#)

The Commission of the European Union adopted a new rule of exemption for people under the age of 18 years allowing them to present a vaccine certificate older than 270 days. [Read more](#)

#### France

#### [Unvaccinated UK Travelers Can Now Enter France Under Facilitated Rules](#)

France moved the UK to the green list on 31 March 2022. Unvaccinated travelers from the UK can now enter France after presenting a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test taken 72 hours, or an antigen test taken 48 hours before entry. [Read more](#)

#### Greece

#### [Greece Extends COVID Vaccination & Recovery Certificates Validity](#)

Greek authorities extended the validity of COVID-19 vaccination certificates from seven months to nine months, based on the European Union directives. Thus, a vaccine certificate will cease to be valid after nine months after the second vaccine dose. Further, Greek authorities extended the validity of recovery certificates from three months to six months. [Read more](#)

#### Italy

#### [Italy to Introduce Digital Nomad Visa](#)

Italy approved the proposal for inviting digital nomads in the country. The government will further work on a new bill for defining all the procedures and details and to implement the law. [Read more](#)

#### Latvia

#### [No Vaccination or Test Certificate Is Required to Enter Latvia Starting Today](#)

Travelers are no longer required to present a vaccination, recovery, or test certificate before entering Latvia. However, travelers coming from high-risk countries are subject to pre-entry requirements. [Read more](#)

#### Latvia

#### [Latvia Terminates Its Golden Visa Program](#)

Latvia has decided to abolish its Golden Visa Program citing security concerns. The programs allowed third-country nationals to obtain a citizenship after making investments in the country. [Read more](#)

#### Lithuania

#### [Lithuania Removes Passenger Locator Form Requirement for Everyone](#)

On 31 March 2022, the Lithuanian government removed the requirement for presenting a pre-entry Passenger Locator Form (PLF). However, travelers from third countries will still be subject to pre-entry restrictions of presenting a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test taken 24 hours before arrival. [Read more.](#)

#### Poland

#### [Poland Now Permits Restriction-Free Entry to All Travelers](#)

From 28 March 2022, all travelers can enter Poland without being subject to COVID-19 entry restrictions. Thus, incoming travelers are no longer required to present COVID-19 certificates before entering Poland. [Read more.](#)

#### Spain

#### [Spain Prolongs COVID-19 Entry Restrictions Despite Easter Holidays Approaching](#)

The Spanish authorities announced the extension of the current entry rules. Thus, all travelers who reach Spain from a European Union country must fill out a pre-arrival Health Control Form. All travelers are required to present a valid vaccination, recovery, or test certificate. [Read more.](#)

#### Spain

#### [Spanish Embassy in Cuba Continues Processing Visa Applications for Special Categories](#)

The Spanish Embassy in Havana informed the citizens of Cuba that they can enter Spain for essential purposes like official duties, business trips, medical treatment, etc. [Read more.](#)

#### Sweden

#### [Sweden Lifts COVID-19 Entry Restrictions for All Third-Country Travelers](#)

From 1 April 2022, travelers coming from countries outside of the European Union are no longer required to provide a pre-entry negative COVID-19 test, a vaccine certificate, or a recovery certificate. Thus, all travelers, regardless of their vaccination or recovery status, can enter Sweden without being subject to additional entry rules. [Read more](#)



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