



Immigration News Highlights

2022-15, 12 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.

Americas

Canada

[Canada Raises Permanent Residence Visa Application Fees from May 2022.](#)

Canada will raise the fees for all permanent residence applications to CAD 515 from 1 May 2022. The fee hike will apply to economic, permit holder, family, and humanitarian classes. [Read more.](#)

United States

[Bill announced to grant automatic work permit to spouses of H1b visa holders](#)

A bill was introduced in the House of Representatives to grant automatic right to H-4 visa holders to work in the country. The measure intends to address labor shortage in the US. [Read more.](#)

United States

[Bill introduced to utilize 380,000 unused family & employment-based visas](#)

A bill was introduced in the congress to use 380,000 unused family and employment-based visas to reduce the Green Card backlog. The bill proposes to recapture about 222,000 unused family-sponsored visas and about 157,000 employment-based visas to reduce the Green Card backlog. [Read more.](#)

United States

[USCIS Implements Risk-Based Approach for Conditional Permanent Resident Interviews](#)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced a policy update to adopt a risk-based approach when waiving interviews for conditional permanent residents (CPR) who have filed a petition to remove the conditions on their permanent resident status. USCIS officers will use a new criterion to waive interviews for CPRs who filed a Form I-751, Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence. [Read more.](#)

Asia Pacific

Australia

[Digital Passenger Declaration](#)

Australian authorities have replaced the Australia Travel Declaration with the Digital Passenger Declaration (DPD). All travelers entering Australia need to complete DPD within seven days before arrival and submit it within 72 hours before departure. Also, from 18 April 2022, fully vaccinated travelers need not provide pre-departure COVID-19 testing results to enter the country. [Read more](#)

Fiji

[Hotel quarantine period ends tomorrow](#)

Fiji ended the three-night quarantine stay requirement on 7 April 2022. Travelers are now required to be fully vaccinated and take a pre-entry COVID-19 test before 24 hours of entry. [Read more](#)

Japan

Japan loosens entry restrictions, tourists still banned

Japan eased entry restrictions for 106 countries that were previously banned due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From 8 April 2022, people from the US, most of Europe, many Southeast Asian countries, and others can apply for entry visas to Japan. Further, Japan increased the daily arrivals from 7,000 to 10,000 people. Tourists are still now allowed to enter the country. [Read more](#)

Oman

Oman exempts fine for late renewal of expat residency permits

The Royal Oman Police (ROP) announced that individuals in Oman have been exempted from fines related to late renewal of expatriate residence permits, effective from 6 April 2022. The exemption without fines will be valid only till 1 September 2022. [Read more](#)

Qatar

Mol extends grace period for legalising visa and residency status of expatriates

Qatar's Ministry of Interior extended the grace period for legalizing the status of expatriates who violated the provisions of Law No. 21 of 2015 regulating the entry and exit of expatriates and their residence until 30 April 2022. All expatriates who violated the law must submit the settlement application to the Search and Follow-up Department. [Read more](#)

Qatar

Change in visa on arrival requirements for three nationalities

Qatar's Ministry of Interior amended the requirements for visa on arrival for Indian, Iranian, and Pakistani travelers, requiring them to book a hotel through Discover Qatar website for the duration of the stay. The measure will enter into force on 14 April 2022. [Read more](#)

Thailand

CCSA delays easing entry restrictions to Thailand... until after Songkran festival

The CCSA announced holding off on easing the current entry restrictions for foreign travelers until Songkran festival. The restrictions are expected to be eased in May where tourists would be required to submit lesser number of documents and pay lesser insurance. [Read more](#)

United Arab Emirates

Cancellation of the "residence sticker" and approval of the "resident ID" card as an alternative

The Emirati government announced suspension of issuance of residence visa stamps to foreign nationals. From 11 April 2022, the Emirati immigration authorities will no longer issue residency visa stamps to foreign nationals who have residency in the United Arab Emirates. Foreign resident will be able to use their ID card to prove their residency status. [Read more](#)



Cyprus

Cyprus Eases Entry Rules for Armenia & Columbia – Keeps Them in Place for EU Countries

Travelers from Armenia and Colombia can enter Cyprus under facilitated rules as these countries were moved to the green category. The measure came into effect on 7 April 2022. Travelers coming from green category countries can enter Cyprus by presenting a PCR test performed 72 hours before arrival or an antigen test performed 24 hours within departure if they do not hold a valid vaccination or recovery certificate. [Read more](#)

Cyprus

Cyprus to Ease Travel Restrictions from April 18

From 18 April 2022, travelers coming from third countries to Cyprus will no longer be subject to travel restrictions. Thus, they will no longer be required to hold a Cyprus Flight Pass. [Read more](#)

Czech Republic

Czechia Lifts COVID-19 Entry Restrictions for All Travelers

From 9 April 2022, all travelers can enter Czech Republic without being subject to any additional entry requirements. Further, the Czech authorities will no longer apply the color-coded system. Thus, all travelers, regardless of their country of origin, can enter Czech Republic without restriction. [Read more](#)

European Union

EU Parliament Expects Kosovo's Visa Liberalization Status to Be Granted Soon, Its President Says

The EU Parliament intends to grant visa liberalization to citizens of Kosovo. Kosovo has been on the waiting list since 2008 after it declared independence. [Read more](#)

Finland

Finland Prolongs Restrictions at External Borders Until May 8, Due to COVID-19

Finish authorities announced extension of entry measure until 8 May 2022. The changes entered into force from 11 April 2022 and require travelers to have a valid certificate that shows they have completed their immunization process against the virus. [Read more](#)

Greece

Greece Permits Test-Free Entry for Colombian & Malaysian Travelers Holding Vaccination/Recovery Certificates

From 11 April 2022, travelers coming from Columbia and Malaysia who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 or have recovered from the virus, can enter Greece without being subject to additional travel restrictions. The measure came following the recognition of vaccination certificated issued by Columbia and Malaysia by the European Union. [Read more](#)

Malta

Malta to Allow Entry for Recovered & Tested Travelers from April 11

From 11 April 2022, Malta allowed entry of all travelers who have recovered from the COVID-19 disease or to those who present a negative PCR test taken up to 72 hours before entry or a recognized Covid recovery certificate which cannot be older than 180 days. [Read more](#)

Malta

EU Calls on Malta to Terminate Its Golden Passport Scheme, Threatens with Legal Action

The European Commission called for abolishment of Malta's golden passport programme citing a breach of EU law. [Read more](#)

Slovakia

Travel: Slovakia Lifts Pre-Entry COVID Registration, Quarantine & Face Mask Requirements

From 6 April 2022, travelers entering Slovakia no longer need to register at eHranica or follow mandatory quarantine rules when entering Slovakia. [Read more](#)

Spain

Spain & France Agree to Permit Dual Citizenship for Each Other's Citizens

Spain and France allowed dual citizenship for their respective citizens. Spanish citizens who qualify for a French citizenship need not renounce their Spanish citizenship first and vice versa. The measure entered into force on 1 April 2022. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Travelers to Spain Must Continue to Prove They Have at Least €100 per Day in Order to Be Able to Enter the Country](#)

Travelers from third countries entering Spain from the external border of the European Union are still required to show proof that they have a minimum amount of EUR 100 per day for each day they plan to stay in Spain. [Read more](#)



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