



Immigration News Highlights

2022-31, 2 August 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. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

Americas

United States

[New STEM Resources Available on USCIS Website](#)

The USCIS provided additional information for applicants with a STEM focus. USCIS clarified on what evidence can be used to support O-1A petitions. [Read more.](#)

Asia Pacific

China

[China resumes issuing visas to Afghans](#)

China will resume issuance of visas to Afghan nationals from 1 August 2022. [Read more](#)

Hong Kong

[Health declaration system refined](#)

The Hong Kong Authorities modified the COVID-19 entry requirements for travelers. From 28 July 2022, all incoming travelers must complete the Health & Quarantine Information Declaration before departure. [Read more](#)

Indonesia

[Indonesia agrees to lift freeze on sending migrant workers to Malaysia](#)

Indonesia lifted the freeze on sending migrant workers to Malaysia. From 1 August 2022, Indonesian migrant workers can enter Malaysia. [Read more](#)

New Zealand

[New Zealand announces complete re-opening of borders](#)

From 31 July 2022, all international travelers can enter New Zealand but must provide a valid proof of vaccination to enter the country if they are a citizenship of a country other than New Zealand and Australia. [Read more](#)

New Zealand**[New Zealand announces new residence categories](#)**

The New Zealand government has announced three new residence categories, namely, 'Straight to residence', 'Work to residence', and 'Highly paid'. Visa eligibility under the new residency visas depends upon the tier list of applicant's occupations. [Read more](#)

South Korea**[South Korea makes COVID-related entry restrictions more stringent](#)**

South Korean authorities announced tightening of COVID related entry restrictions as of 25 July 2022. Travelers are now required to take a PCR test within one day of entering the country. Short term visitors can take the test at testing centers available at Incheon Airport, long term visitors need to get the same done from a public health center. [Read more](#)

United Arab Emirates**[Applications for Israel visas open for UAE residents](#)**

From 1 August 2022, UAE residents can apply for Israel visas based upon their eligibility. The measure aims to improve bilateral relationship between the two countries. [Read more](#)

**Europe and Africa****European Union****[EU COVID Passport recognition given to COVID certificates issues in Oman, Peru, and Philippines](#)**

The EU Commission announced the adoption of the covid certificates issued by Oman, Peru, and the Philippines as equivalent to the EU Digital COVID certificate, starting from 1 August 2022. [Read more](#)

France**[France to continue issuing visas to Vietnamese passport holders](#)**

The French Embassy in Vietnam will recognize the new Vietnamese passports. Schengen visas shall be issued normally for these passport holders. However, they cannot be used to travel to Germany as the passports are not recognized by German authorities. [Read more](#)

France**[France Lifts COVID Entry Restrictions for All Travelers](#)**

From 1 July 2022, all travelers can enter France without observing any pre-entry COVID-19 restrictions. Thus, travelers are no longer required to present a valid proof of vaccination, recovery, or testing before entering France. [Read more](#)

Germany**[Chinese Authorities Abolish Visa Invitation Requirement for Germans Who Intend to Resume Work in China](#)**

The Chinese Embassy in Berlin stated that German nationals intending to apply for visa to resume work or business in China in areas like economy and trade, education, science, etc. no longer need to present an invitation letter. The measure aims to ease entry restrictions on foreign travel and entry into China. [Read more](#)

Germany**[German embassy in Namibia to start receiving Schengen visa applications](#)**

The German embassy in Namibia will begin receiving Schengen Visa applications from 2 August 2022. [Read more](#)

Germany**[Germany refuses to issue visas for new Vietnamese passports](#)**

The German embassy in Vietnam shall not be recognizing and approving the new Vietnamese passports. Holders of such a passport shall not be eligible to apply for a C or D visa to enter Germany. The reason for refusal is yet to be clarified by the German authorities. [Read more](#)

Greece**[Greece announces extension of passport validity from five to ten years](#)**

Greek authorities announced that Greek nationals will now be able to obtain passports that will be valid for ten years instead of the earlier five years. [Read more.](#)

Montenegro

[Montenegro announces two-year digital nomad visa](#)

Montenegro announced the launch of a two-year digital nomad visa, which can be prolonged with an additional two years. Digital nomad visa holders would be exempt from paying income taxes during their stay in the country. [Read more](#)

Spain

[No Schengen Visa Appointments Available Until September, Spanish Consulate in Cuba Says](#)

The Spanish General in Havana, Cuba announced non-availability of appointments until September 2022 for Schengen Visa. [Read more](#)

Turkey

[Visa free travel for Bulgarian citizens approved by Turkey](#)

Bulgarian tourists will no longer be required to register for a visa to visit Turkey. Belgian citizens can enter Turkey for tourist purposes for a period of 90 days within 180 days. [Read more](#)



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