

Mobility: Immigration alert

November 2023



Finland

Closing of four border crossing points with Russia

Executive summary

The Finnish Government has closed part of its eastern border in southeast Finland. The border crossing points in Vaalimaa, Nuijamaa, Imatra and Niirala are closed as of 18 November 2023 until 18 February 2024.

Key developments

Finland closed four of its border crossing points in response to the increase in undocumented asylum seekers entering from Russia. This decision is based on the recently renewed Border Guard Act which allows the government to close its borders, or parts of its borders, temporarily or until further notice, if the border closing is necessary to prevent serious threats to the public order, national safety, or public health.

Individuals seeking to enter Finland from Russia must use other border crossing points such as Vartius, Kuusamo, Salla or Raja-Jooseppi. This decision applies to all individuals entering from Russia, including Finnish citizens and non-Russian citizens, and to the commercial traffic crossing the border. The Finnish Government and authorities will be monitoring this situation closely and take further action, amend, or cancel their decision based on the development surrounding the influx of asylum seekers.

The Finnish Government has also centralized the intake of asylum-seeker applications at two border crossing points: (1) Vartius in the Kainuu region and (2) Salla in Finnish Lapland region.

Impact on employers

Companies with impacted employees may inform these individuals of the change to minimize delays and mitigate business disruptions.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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Tuomas Anttila
Partner – People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +358408671332
Email: tuomas.anttila@fi.ey.com

Mirja Lehmus
Manager – People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +358400424277
Email: mirja.lehmus@fi.ey.com