

Mobility: Immigration alert

June 2023



South Africa

Another extension for Zimbabwe Exemption Permit holders to change immigration status

Executive summary

On 7 June 2023, the South African Department of Home Affairs (DHA) extended the deadline for Zimbabwe Exemption Permit (ZEP) holders to change to another immigration status until 31 December 2023.

Background

The DHA introduced the ZEP in 2017 for eligible Zimbabwean nationals who were living in South Africa at the time on a Zimbabwean Dispensation Permit. In December 2021, the DHA discontinued the ZEP and set a deadline of 31 December 2022 for holders of valid ZEPs to switch to another South African immigration category. In September 2022, the DHA [extended](#) the initial deadline until 30 June 2023.

Key developments

On 7 June 2023, the DHA extended the deadline again until 31 December 2023.

Impact on employers

Employers that hire ZEP holders now have over six months to assist their impacted employees with converting to another immigration status and minimize the potential for work disruptions stemming from ZEP holders losing their immigration status in South Africa.

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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EYG no. 005681-23Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

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