

Mobility: Immigration alert

October 2022



South Africa

Expired visas extended for certain foreigners with pending visa or waiver applications

Executive summary

The South African government recently extended the validity of expired visas held by individuals whose visa or waiver applications were pending adjudication as of 1 September 2022, to 31 March 2023.

Background

The South African Department of Home Affairs (DHA) has been experiencing significant delays in the processing of visa applications for the past 12 months. Consequently, several foreign nationals residing in South Africa were unable to maintain valid legal status for prolonged periods of time, pending the issuance of their visas.

Key issues

Individuals whose visa applications or waiver applications (i.e., waiver of prescribed requirements) were pending adjudication as of 1 September 2022 may now continue residing in South Africa until 31 March 2023, provided they do not undertake activities that are prohibited under the terms of their existing visas.

Until 31 March 2023, impacted individuals from [visa-exempt countries](#) whose Long-Term Visa or waiver applications are pending adjudication may exit and re-enter South Africa by presenting their application receipt upon their return to South Africa. Meanwhile, impacted individuals from non-visa-exempt countries must apply for a Visitor Visa before exiting South Africa and present the application receipt to re-enter the country until 31 March 2023.

Impact on employers

This development is expected to help impacted employers minimize work disruptions stemming from foreign nationals losing their immigration status in South Africa due to the current delays in the processing of Visa applications.

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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