

Mobility: Immigration alert

August 2022



South Africa

South Africa adds new occupations to its 2022 Critical Skills List

Executive summary

On 2 August 2022, the South African government updated its 2022 Critical Skills List (“the updated List”). The updated List contains new healthcare-related occupations and replaces all previously published versions of the List.

Background

The Critical Skills List was created to attract foreign workers who possess professional skills and experiences considered vital to the growth of the South African economy. Employers that sponsor foreign nationals to work in occupations contained in this List are exempt from labor market testing requirements. Foreign workers who qualify to work in occupations contained in this List are issued Critical Skills Work Visas. In February this year, the South African government released its 2022 Critical Skills List, which replaced the initial List published in 2014. The 2022 List was further amended on 1 and 2 August 2022.

Key issues

The [updated List](#) includes 27 new occupations for medical practitioners. Individuals applying under these occupations must possess at least a bachelor’s degree and a Membership as a Fellow of Medicine in their area of specialization. They must also be registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa and the relevant professional board in the country where they are currently practicing medicine.

The updated List includes five new occupations for dentists. Individuals applying under these categories must possess a Master of Dentistry aligned to their area of specialization and

be registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

In addition, the updated List contains six new occupations for registered nurses specializing in intensive/critical care and pre-operative nursing, among other areas. Applicants under this category must have a diploma in nursing and additional qualification in their area of specialization.

The updated List also includes two pharmacist roles. The industrial pharmacist role has been added as a separate category, whereas the clinical pharmacologist role has been added as a subcategory of medical practitioners. Applicants for both roles must possess a qualification equivalent to, or higher than, the National Qualifications Framework [Level 7](#) (i.e., a bachelor’s degree or advanced diploma) and be registered with an accredited professional body recognized by the South African government.

Impact on clients

Many South African employers retain healthcare professionals to provide services at their workplaces. The updated List expands these companies’ ability to hire foreign nationals to deliver healthcare-related services to their employees.

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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