

Global Immigration alert

July 2024



South Africa

Extension of blanket concession for individuals with pending visa, waiver and appeal applications until 31 December 2024

Executive summary

On 4 July 2024, South Africa's Department of Home Affairs (DHA) extended the temporary concession period until 31 December 2024 for eligible foreign nationals whose Long-Term Visa, waiver or appeal applications were pending adjudication as of 30 June 2024.

Background

The DHA has been experiencing significant delays in the processing of visa applications. It has attributed the backlog to several factors, including a shortage of personnel, an exercise to curb corruption, a complex visa application process, and travel restrictions imposed following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of these delays, the DHA announced a concession in March 2023, enabling holders of Long-Term Visas who submitted waiver or renewal applications and did not receive a decision regarding their application by [31 March 2023](#) to receive automatic extensions of their visas until 31 December 2023. The DHA then announced that individuals whose Long-Term Visa, waiver or appeal applications were pending adjudication as of [30 November 2023](#) received automatic extensions until 30 June 2024.

Key developments

The latest extension applies to individuals who submitted Long-Term Visa, waiver or appeal applications on or before 30 June 2024 and did not receive a decision as of that date. These individuals' lawful stay in South Africa is automatically extended until 31 December 2024, and they may exit and re-enter the country on or before this date without incurring penalties.

Visa-exempt individuals with pending Long-Term Visa or waiver applications must present their application receipt to immigration officials upon entry into and departure from South Africa. Those with pending appeal applications must present both their visa rejection letter and the appeal application receipt when entering or exiting the country. Non-visa exempt applicants who exit the country must obtain a Visitor's Visa prior to re-entering South Africa.

Individuals who have applied to extend their short-stay visas must exit the country within 90 calendar days of their initial visa's expiry if they do not receive a decision on their extension application until then.

Impact on employers

The extension is expected to benefit employers by minimizing business disruptions in connection with processing delays.

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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