



Mobility: Immigration alert

July 2020

Israel

Updated COVID-19 Immigration Alert: Entry of experts into Israel update

Executive summary

Foreign experts can enter Israel under urgent, limited and exceptional circumstances to work in medical facilities, as part of national infrastructure projects and or to encourage the functional continuity of the economy. A special procedure has been introduced for obtaining the work visa to Israel.

For visits of up to 7 days, no home quarantine obligation is levied based on Israeli Health Ministry approval.

A procedure for automatic extensions of work permits for experts who are currently in Israel, is now available.

Foreign experts and dependents, holding a valid visa for one year, who wish to travel to their home countries and return to Israel, will now be able to.

Key issues

New B-1 visa applications

A company/foreign expert may apply for a special authorization from the relevant government office in Israel (e.g., Ministry of Economy/Transport/Energy, etc.). Upon obtaining the Ministry's approval, a work permit application must be submitted to the Israeli Immigration authorities. The foreign expert must sign an affidavit relating to the 14-day home quarantine requirement and obtain an approval to board the flight by the Israeli Border Control authorities in Israel. A foreign expert who arrives at the airport without the boarding authorization, will be refused entry to Israel.

Upon entry to Israel, foreign nationals must present a health insurance policy that includes coverage for COVID-19.

During the period of stay in Israel, the inviting company and the foreign expert must meet the requirements set by the Ministry of Health, including a 14-day home quarantine, designated transportation and accommodation, daily monitoring of health conditions, etc.

A foreign national departing Israel prior to completing the 14-day home quarantine without a special authorization, is considered to be violating the law and will be refused entry on his next attempt to enter Israel.

In limited circumstances, for visits of up to 7 days, entrance to Israel with no home quarantine requirement may be possible, assuming an approval by the Ministry of Health is obtained. Although, home quarantine is not required in this instance, the individual is still required to stay in an apartment and not in a hotel, hostel or guest house.

Foreign experts holding a valid B-1 visa and are currently outside of Israel

Foreign experts that hold a valid B-1 visa and are currently outside of Israel and wish to return, should apply through the relevant Ministry and Israeli Border control in order to obtain the authorization to board the flight, prior to arriving in Israel.

Foreign experts and dependents currently in Israel and wish to travel abroad

Foreign experts and dependents, holding a valid visa for one year, who wish to travel to their home countries and return to Israel, should obtain a special authorization from the Israeli immigration authorities prior to their departure from Israel.

A procedure for automatic extensions of work permits

The Israeli Immigration Authority announced that an extension of work permits for foreign nationals that are currently present in Israel, will be as follows:

1. Work permits and B-1 visas expiring between 10 March 2020 until 30 June 2020 will be extended for a period of three months from the original expiration date of the work permit.
2. Work permits and B-1 visas expiring between 1 July 2020 until 31 August 2020 will be extended for a period of ten weeks from the original expiration date of the work permit.

A submission of a new work permit application will not be required. The extension will be updated in the Immigration authorities' system, with no re-issuance of new work permits. An application to receive the extended B-1 visa stamp will need to be submitted to the Ministry of Interior in addition to payment of the relevant government charges.

It is Important to note that the extension of work permits and B-1 visas will be valid as long as the Immigration Authority did not notify otherwise to the expert/ company or their representative, did not refuse to renew the work permit prior to its expiration date, did not cancel the B-1 visa and assuming all permit and visa conditions are still met.

Entering of businessmen to hold business meetings

Businessmen will be able to hold meetings at the Ben Gurion Lounges without the need for quarantine. Businessmen will not be able to enter Israel for tours, visits or demonstrations without quarantine.

Next steps

For companies who need to urgently assign employees to Israel, please contact your local EY advisor or one of the contacts listed below.

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EYG no. 005028-20GbI

2005-3488310
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