

Global Immigration alert

July 2026

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South Africa

South Africa waives medical report requirement for certain temporary residence and permanent residence applications

Executive summary

On 8 July 2026, South Africa's Minister of Home Affairs issued Ministerial Immigration Directive No. 10 of 2026, waiving the medical report requirement for certain temporary residence visa and permanent residence applications. The directive removes the obligation to submit a medical report as was previously required.

The waiver applies immediately and is expected to reduce documentary requirements for eligible applicants. For temporary residence visa applications, the waiver applies only to applications submitted within South Africa. For permanent residence applications, the waiver applies to applications submitted both within South Africa and abroad.

Key developments

The directive provides that:

- Applicants submitting temporary residence visa applications within South Africa are no longer required to submit a medical report.
- Applicants submitting permanent residence applications either within South Africa or abroad are no longer required to submit a medical report.
- The waiver took effect on 8 July 2026, the date the directive was signed.
- The Department of Home Affairs and Visa Facilitation Services (VFS) have been instructed to publish and implement the directive.
- All other eligibility and documentary requirements for temporary residence and permanent residence applications remain unchanged unless otherwise waived.

The measure forms part of the Department of Home Affairs' broader efforts to modernize and simplify immigration processes while reducing administrative barriers for applicants.

Impact on employers

The removal of the medical report requirement should simplify application preparation for employers sponsoring foreign nationals applying for residence in South Africa. Employers may benefit from:

- Reduced document collection requirements
- Lower costs associated with obtaining medical reports
- Faster preparation and submission of applications
- Reduced risk of delays arising from expired or unavailable medical documentation

While the waiver is expected to streamline the application process, employers should continue to ensure that all other requirements are met and that applications are properly prepared in line with the applicable visa or residence category.

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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