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Global Immigration alert

June 2026

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United Arab Emirates

UAE cancels waiver of overstay fines and introduces 30-day grace period for individuals to regularize status or exit

Executive summary

The [Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Ports Security \(ICP\)](#) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has canceled the waiver of overstay fines for individuals who were unable to exit the UAE due to exceptional circumstances in the region. Effective 10 June 2026 to 9 July 2026, individuals have a temporary 30-day grace period to regularize their immigration status or exit without incurring overstay fines.

Earlier, in March 2026, the ICP implemented a humanitarian measure waiving overstay fines for individuals who were unable to leave the UAE due to airspace closures and flight suspensions from 28 February 2026. This relief applied to visa holders, individuals with departure permits, and residents with canceled permits.

Key developments

The ICP has confirmed that the exceptional circumstances that led to the earlier relief measures have now ceased due to restored stability in the region.

Accordingly, a final 30-day grace period has been introduced from 10 June 2026 to 9 July 2026, during which affected individuals may take the following actions:

- *Regularize their status:* Eligible individuals may apply for employment or residency status in line with prevailing UAE immigration regulations.
- *Exit the UAE:* Individuals who do not intend to remain in the country may depart in accordance with applicable procedures without incurring overstay fines.

The ICP has clarified that no additional applications or procedures are required to benefit from this grace period, as eligibility is automatically extended to those who were previously covered under the overstay fine exemption.

This approach reflects the UAE's focus on restoring regulatory compliance while maintaining a pragmatic and humanitarian

stance following disruption-related challenges. The ICP has also advised individuals to monitor its official communication channels for any updates during this period.

Impact on employers

Employers in the UAE may wish to identify employees and dependents who may have been affected by the prior travel disruptions and overstay exemptions.

Organizations should:

- Review the immigration status of impacted individuals and assess whether regularization is required within the grace period.
- Initiate necessary visa or residency procedures in a timely manner to ensure compliance.
- Support impacted employees in facilitating timely departure arrangements, where applicable.

Failure to take appropriate action within the stipulated period may lead to reinstatement of overstay fines and potential compliance risks for both individuals and sponsoring entities.

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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