

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2024



Kenya

Kenya eliminates entry visa requirement, implements Electronic Travel Authorization

Executive summary

Effective 5 January 2024, most individuals traveling to Kenya (including visa-free nationals) must apply for entry authorization via the new Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) portal prior to travel and are no longer required to obtain an entry visa.

Background

The eTA portal is a semi-automated system that determines individuals' eligibility, and provides them authorization, to travel to Kenya. An eTA does not guarantee entry into Kenya, and inbound travelers will be granted entry based on the discretion of the immigration authorities. An eTA is valid for a single entry.

Key developments

Individuals must apply for entry authorization via the eTA portal and pay the application fee at least three days prior to travel. This requirement also applies to visa-free nationals and children under the age of 16, who were previously exempt from the requirement to obtain an entry visa.

Certain categories of individuals are exempt from the eTA requirement, including nationals of the East African Community Member States (i.e., Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda); holders of valid work permits, permanent residence certificates or passes (e.g., Dependant's Pass, Student Pass); and individuals transiting through Kenya who do not leave the airport or ship. Holders of diplomatic, official or service passports on official duty or holders of specific laissez-passers must obtain an eTA but are not required to pay the application fee.

Impact on Employers

The introduction of the eTA portal is expected to streamline the entry process for business travelers seeking to visit Kenya.

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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