



Global Immigration alert

December 2024

Republic of Korea

Temporary Electronic Travel Authorization exemption to be extended until 31 December 2025

Executive summary

On 11 December 2024, the Republic of Korea announced that it will extend the temporary exemption period for nationals of 22 jurisdictions in connection with the Korean Electronic Travel Authorization (K-ETA). The exemption period will be extended until 31 December 2025.

Background

A K-ETA is a travel permission granted to qualifying foreign nationals who seek to enter the Republic of Korea without a visa for up to 90 days for business or tourism purposes. These applications are generally processed within 24 hours. The K-ETA requirement applies to nationals of [112 jurisdictions](#) and went into effect on 1 September 2021. On 1 April 2023, the authorities announced that nationals of 22 out of the 112 jurisdictions were exempt from the K-ETA requirement until 31 December 2024. The K-ETA does not confer work authorization to its holder. Individuals who seek to enter the Republic of Korea for work purposes must apply for a work permit before entering the jurisdiction.

Key developments

The temporary exemption applies to nationals of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Macao, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States (including Guam). These individuals will remain exempt from the requirement to obtain a K-ETA until 31 December 2025 and will be able to enter the jurisdiction using only their valid passport.

Impact on employers

The new policy is expected to benefit employers that send K-ETA exempt employees to the Republic of Korea by delaying the implementation of new requirements associated with these employees' admission to the jurisdiction.

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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