

Global Immigration alert

February 2025

United Kingdom

eVisa grace period extended until 1 June 2025

Executive summary

On 27 February 2025, the UK Home Office announced an extension of the grace period for using expired physical immigration documents to travel to the UK until 1 June 2025.

Background

The UK launched its eVisa system in April 2024. Under this system, individuals are required to convert their physical immigration documents into eVisas. Initially, individuals were instructed to switch to an eVisa by the end of December 2024. In December 2024, the government announced a grace period for individuals whose physical documents had expired but who had not yet obtained eVisas, enabling them to continue to travel to the UK using their expired documents until 31 March 2025.

Key developments

On 27 February 2025, the Home Office reported that as of that date, over four million UK visa holders had successfully created accounts to access their eVisas. However, about 600,000 individuals were yet to do so. Creation of an account is mandatory to transition from physical immigration documents to eVisas.

To ease the transition process for impacted individuals, the government has extended the grace period until 1 June 2025. This extension benefits individuals holding physical and paper immigration documents, including Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs) and EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) Biometric Residence Cards (BRCs), that expired on or after 31 December 2024, provided they maintain their underlying immigration status.

Effective 2 June 2025, expired BRPs and EUSS BRCs will no longer be accepted as evidence of immigration status when traveling to the UK.

Individuals with Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) or Settlement who currently use an ink stamp or vignette in their passport to demonstrate their rights may continue to do so for travel. However, they must submit a free No Time Limit (NTL) application to receive an eVisa once their NTL application is processed.

Impact on employers

Employers may remind their migrant workforce to register for their eVisa accounts before the 1 June 2025 deadline. The [registration process](#) is free and straightforward for individuals who hold physical and paper documents.

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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