

# Global Immigration alert

March 2025

## Saudi Arabia

Important update regarding business visa regulations

### Executive summary

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has implemented significant changes to the Saudi Business Visit Visa (BVV) rules based on recent press reports. These changes, which are already effective, impact the visa application process for nationals of certain countries and also have a bearing on existing business visas held by these individuals.

### Background

The Saudi government has been revising its visa policies to streamline the application process and enhance security measures. The new updates concerning BVV rules reflect a shift in how invitation letters are issued and impact the mandatory departure dates for travelers of specific nationalities holding existing, valid business or visit visas.

### Key developments

Invitation letters issued to travelers from the 14 countries listed below, upon application on the MOFA website, will no longer specify the "number of days" and "frequency of travel." Instead, the invitation letters will now include a note stating, "The validity of the visa, the number of entries, and the duration of stay will be determined when processing the visa application at the relevant Saudi Embassy."

The new rules apply to nationals of the following countries:

- Algeria
- Bangladesh
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- India
- Indonesia

- Iraq
- Jordan
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Yemen

### Impact on employers

These changes will affect foreign employees who are traveling to Saudi Arabia for business purposes. The new regulations may lead to uncertainties regarding the duration of stay and require careful planning to ensure compliance with the mandatory departure date. Employers may prepare for potential disruptions in project timelines and client deliverables and:

- Review and adjust travel plans for employees affected by these changes to ensure compliance with the new regulations
- Inform employees about the new visa regulations and the importance of adhering to the mandatory departure date
- Encourage employees to verify their visa requirements and consult with authorized visa agents to ensure all necessary pre- and post-arrival procedures are followed

### 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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