

Global Immigration alert

April 2025

Japan

New TB clearance requirement for nationals of Nepal, the Philippines and Vietnam

Executive summary

The Japan Pre-Entry Tuberculosis Screening (J-PETS) program went into effect on 24 March 2025. In the first phase, this program will apply to nationals of Nepal and the Philippines who seek to enter Japan. It will be extended to nationals of additional jurisdictions in the upcoming months.

Background

Japan introduced the Japan Pre-Entry Tuberculosis Screening (J-PETS) program in December 2024. Under this program, nationals of certain jurisdictions who seek to stay in Japan for more than three months must undergo a TB test at an authorized clinic in their jurisdiction of residence prior to entering Japan and obtain a Certificate of Non-Infectiousness for Tuberculosis. In general, this certificate remains valid for 180 days from the date of testing (and 90 days in some cases), and individuals must present it when applying for a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) or visa and upon arrival in Japan.

Key developments

The J-PETS program impacts:

- Nationals of Nepal and the Philippines: TB screening began on 24 March 2025. TB clearance certificates become mandatory effective 23 June 2025.
- Vietnamese nationals: TB screening to begin on 26 May 2025. TB clearance certificates become mandatory effective 1 September 2025.
- Nationals of the Chinese mainland, Indonesia and Myanmar: The launch date has not announced at the time of publication.

If an individual applies for a CoE (without a TB clearance certificate) before the J-PETS goes into effect for them and receives a CoE, they will not be required to present a TB certificate

when applying for a visa or upon arrival, provided they do not show any symptoms of TB. For individuals who have been diagnosed with TB in the past, if an authorized medical institution confirms that the TB treatment has been completed and the individual is currently not suffering from TB, a clearance certificate will be issued, which will allow them to apply for a CoE and visa.

Impact on employers

This change will increase compliance responsibilities for employers and may lead to delays in the hiring process. Employers may support their impacted employees with obtaining the TB clearance certificate to ensure compliance.

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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