

Global Immigration alert

September 2025

South Africa

Temporary concession extended for individuals with pending waiver and appeal cases through 31 March 2026

Executive summary

South Africa's Department of Home Affairs (DHA) recently extended the temporary concession period until 31 March 2026 for eligible foreign nationals with pending waiver or appeal applications as of 26 September 2025.

Background

Following the [previous concession](#) issued on 28 March 2025, the DHA successfully cleared the visa and permit processing backlogs by the initial deadline of 30 September 2025. However, waiver and appeal applications submitted for various reasons and across different immigration application types, including long-term visas and permanent residence permits, remain backlogged as of the issuance of this alert.

Key developments

The latest extension applies to individuals who submitted waiver or appeal applications on or before 26 September 2025 and did not receive a decision as of that date. These individuals' lawful stay in South Africa is now valid until 31 March 2026, and they may exit and re-enter the country on or before this date without incurring penalties.

Visa-exempt individuals with pending waiver applications must present their application receipt to the immigration officials upon departure from and re-entry into South Africa. Those with pending appeal applications must present their visa rejection letter and appeal application receipt when entering or exiting the country. Non-visa exempt applicants with pending appeal or waiver applications who exit the country must obtain a Visitor's Visa prior to re-entering South Africa.

The concession does not apply to permanent residence permit applicants, who must ensure their temporary residence status remains valid.

Impact on employers

The extension is expected to benefit employers by minimizing business disruptions in connection with processing delays.

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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