

Global Immigration alert

November 2025

Netherlands

Netherlands introduces stricter border controls for third-country nationals

Executive summary

As part of ongoing enhancements to border systems, the Netherlands is implementing more rigorous procedures for third-country nationals traveling to and from the country.

Background

These changes align with broader European efforts to strengthen border controls and introduce digital systems such as the [Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#) and the [European Travel Information and Authorization System \(ETIAS\)](#).

Key developments

To support its transition to digital border controls, the Netherlands recently introduced the following changes:

- **Increased entry scrutiny:** In anticipation of the ETIAS, which is expected to launch in the last quarter of 2026, the Dutch border authorities are applying increased scrutiny at entry points. Travelers entering the Netherlands for short stays (i.e., for up to 90 days within any 180-day period), including business visitors, may be subject to more detailed questioning regarding the purpose of their travel, accommodation arrangements and financial resources. Border officials may also request supporting documents such as hotel reservations, travel insurance, return tickets and proof of sufficient funds. These measures are part of broader efforts to strengthen pre-arrival checks and ensure compliance with EU entry requirements ahead of the ETIAS implementation.
- **Biometric kiosks at airports:** The Netherlands implemented the EES on 12 October 2025. As part of the EES rollout, biometric kiosks have been introduced at Dutch airports, including Schiphol, with full implementation expected by April 2026. These kiosks are physical devices used

to collect travelers' biometric and passport data upon arrival. Travelers are required to scan their passport, have a facial photo taken and provide fingerprints. The collected data is stored in the EES database, a centralized EU system that digitally records the entry and exit of third-country nationals. Once registered, the biometric data remains valid in the system for up to three years. During that period, travelers are not required to repeat the registration process for subsequent entries. The use of biometric kiosks facilitates automated border checks and enhances the accuracy of travel monitoring across the Schengen Area.

- **Updated departure procedures:** Third-country nationals whose Dutch residence permit is nearing expiration and who wish to remain in the Netherlands or elsewhere in the Schengen Area for up to 90 days within a 180-day period may now register via the EES by completing the digital notification form available on the Immigration and Naturalization (IND) [website](#). Registration is available up to 28 days before the residence permit expires, and if a visa is required, individuals may register only after obtaining a Schengen Visa from outside the Netherlands. Upon successful registration, the IND will send a confirmation to the traveler, stating that their biometric data has been successfully stored in the EES database and specifying the duration of their permitted stay in the Schengen Area following the expiration of their residence permit. The EES registration is expected to replace traditional passport stamps. Individuals who are unable to complete the online registration may record their departure at border checkpoints, although this may lead to longer processing times.



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Impact on employers

Employers may inform impacted travelers, including those entering for business purposes, as upcoming ETIAS and EES procedures may lead to longer processing times and increased scrutiny at border controls.

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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