

Global Immigration alert

March 2026

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia implements temporary measures for holders of expired visit visas

Executive summary

On 25 March 2026, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Interior (MOI) [announced](#) the implementation of royal directives to address the status of holders of expired visit visas who were unable to depart from the Kingdom due to the current situation in the region. The measures apply to holders of all types of visit visas, including business, tourist, Umrah, transit and final exit visas, that expired as of 25 February 2026.

Key developments

The MOI has confirmed the following measures:

- *Visa extension option:* Expired visit visas as of 25 February 2026 may be extended upon request by the visitor's visa sponsor until 18 April 2026. The extension is subject to payment of the prescribed statutory fees through the [Absher platform](#).
- *Direct departure without extension:* Holders of expired visit visas as of 25 February 2026 may depart directly through international ports without extending their visas and without payment of fees or overstay penalties.

The MOI has communicated to eligible individuals to start the process for their visa extension or to depart from the Kingdom prior to 18 April 2026 to avoid the application of penalties under the applicable regulations.

Impact on employers

Saudi-based sponsoring entities may need to review impacted sponsored visitors, coordinate departure or extension actions as appropriate, and ensure that relevant deadlines are communicated to affected individuals.

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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