Global Immigration alert

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United Arab Emirates

UAE expands visa-on-arrival facility to nationals of six countries

Executive summary

Effective 25 June 2026, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) expanded its visa-on-arrival (VOA) program to include nationals of six additional countries. Eligible individuals may obtain entry visas upon arrival, provided they hold valid residence permits issued by specified countries.

The measure aims to facilitate international mobility and further enhance the UAE's accessibility for business and leisure travel.

Key developments

Under the expanded framework, nationals of Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand and Vietnam holding ordinary passports are now eligible for the VOA facility, provided they hold a valid residence permit issued by Australia, Canada, a European Union Member State, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Republic of Singapore, the United Kingdom or the United States.

Eligible travelers must present both their passport and the valid residence documentation at UAE entry points, where visas will be issued subject to standard immigration procedures. At the port of entry, travelers may choose from the following options:

- 14-day visa: Issued upon payment of AED100 and may be extended once for an additional 14 days while in the UAE.
- 60-day visa: Issued upon payment of AED250 and permits a single stay of up to 60 days, without the option for extension.

Authorities have confirmed that visa holders must depart the UAE before the permitted stay expires. An overstay penalty of AED50 per day will apply where individuals remain beyond the authorized duration.

The expansion reflects the UAE's continued efforts to modernize its entry framework, align its services with global mobility and tourism practices, and promote stronger economic, cultural and bilateral engagement with partner countries.

Impact on employers

This development is expected to support increased short-term travel to the UAE for eligible nationals, including business visits, client meetings and exploratory activities. Employers may benefit from greater flexibility when arranging travel for individuals who meet the qualifying criteria.

Individuals who do not meet these conditions must continue to obtain a UAE visa in advance through the standard application process. Employers should therefore ensure that travel plans are aligned with eligibility requirements and that all supporting documents are valid at the time of entry.

From a compliance perspective, organizations should monitor visa durations closely, ensure employees' timely exit prior to expiry of their permitted stay, and advise travelers to select the appropriate visa type based on the purpose of stay and the intended length of stay.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

Roman Gusev
Partner, People Advisory Services Tax, MENA Immigration
Tel: +971 56 2430749
Email: roman.gusev@ae.ey.com

Sana Sheikh
Director, People Advisory Services Tax, MENA Immigration
Tel: +971 56 3575664
Email: sana.sheikh@ae.ey.com

Ben Willis
Partner, EY Global Immigration Competency Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 9589
Email: ben.willis@uk.ey.com

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