

Global Immigration alert

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Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan introduces Electronic Travel Authorization requirement for visa-exempt foreign nationals

Executive summary

On 24 June 2026, Kazakhstan adopted [Law No. 326-VIII](#) "On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Issues of Digitalization, Personal Data Protection, Road Traffic and Regulation of Advanced Technologies in Transport" (the "Law"). The Law introduces, among other changes, amendments to the migration legislation of Kazakhstan, including a legal framework for the implementation of an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system. Pursuant to the Law, the ETA-related amendments entered into force on 25 August 2026.

Key developments

Key developments include:

- **Introduction of Electronic Travel Authorization:** The Law introduces the concept of an electronic authorization for entry into Kazakhstan. The ETA is defined as an electronic document containing a decision of the competent authorities granting a foreign national or stateless person the right to enter and transit through Kazakhstan. The Law provides that the categories of foreign nationals subject to the ETA requirement and the procedure for its issuance will be determined by migration legislation and implementing regulations.
- **Grounds for refusal of entry:** The Law also introduces a new ground for refusal of entry into Kazakhstan. In particular, a foreign national or stateless person may be prohibited from entering Kazakhstan if they fail to obtain an ETA where such authorization is required under the applicable migration legislation.
- **Digitalization of migration processes:** In addition, the Law introduces several migration-related concepts, including:
 - Digital profile of an immigrant
 - Digital platform for foreign nationals and stateless persons
 - Centralized immigrant database
 - Digital registration mechanisms

These changes form part of a broader initiative aimed at the digitalization of migration administration and migration control procedures in Kazakhstan.

- **Clarifications from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA):** According to clarifications received from the MIA, the ETA system is expected to operate as follows:
 - The ETA system is expected to be operational from 25 August 2026.
 - The requirement is expected to apply to nationals of countries benefiting from Kazakhstan's visa-free regime. Accordingly, the requirement may apply both to nationals of [Eurasian Economic Union \(EAEU\)](#) member states and to nationals of other [visa-free countries](#), regardless of the purpose of travel.
 - Foreign nationals holding a valid Kazakhstan visa, Temporary Residence Permit (TRP) or Permanent Residence Permit (PRP) are expected to be exempt from the ETA requirement.
 - The ETA does not guarantee admission into Kazakhstan. The final decision on entry is taken by the competent authorities during border control procedures.
 - The ETA applications are expected to be submitted electronically by the foreign national through the [QazETA platform](#) no later than 72 hours prior to the planned date of entry.
 - Issued ETAs are expected to be valid for multiple entries and remain valid for 180 calendar days from the date of issuance.
 - The MIA has further indicated that, during the initial implementation phase, the system is expected to operate in an informational mode. Although obtaining an ETA is expected to be mandatory, individuals who do not possess a valid ETA may not initially be refused entry and may instead be informed of the requirement for future travel. However, it should be noted that

the law expressly introduces the absence of a required ETA as a statutory ground for refusal of entry into Kazakhstan for nationals of countries designated by the government.

- The MIA further clarified that the ETA implementation rules are expected to be incorporated into the "Rules on Entry and Stay of Immigrants in the Republic of Kazakhstan and Their Departure from the Republic of Kazakhstan", approved by the Government Resolution No. 148 of 21 January 2012.

As the ETA framework is still being implemented, its scope and application may be subject to further regulatory guidance and amendments. The information provided above is a general overview of the changes and does not constitute an exhaustive summary of all legislative amendments.

Impact on employers

It is recommended that employers should continue monitoring the implementation of the ETA framework, including any amendments to the Government Resolution No. 148, the final list of affected nationalities and traveler categories, application procedures and any transitional measures introduced by the authorities.

Foreign nationals who may be subject to the ETA requirement are strongly advised to obtain the authorization prior to travel. Although the MIA has indicated that the system is expected to operate in an informational mode during the initial implementation phase, the Law expressly identifies the absence of a required ETA as a potential ground for refusal of entry into Kazakhstan. Obtaining an ETA in advance may therefore help mitigate travel disruptions and entry-related risks.

Compliance with all other applicable immigration requirements of the Republic of Kazakhstan remains mandatory.

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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