

Mobility: Immigration alert

October 2023

Israel

Travel and Mobility Update

Executive summary

In light of the ongoing situation in Israel, the immigration authorities are operating with limited personnel and capacity, including the Work Permit unit and the visa department. Several branch offices of the Ministry of Interior are closed temporarily while others are open for limited hours. The Ministry is publishing a list daily of open branches and hours of operation. As a result, the Israeli Population and Immigration Authority (PIBA) announced on 8 October 2023 that all valid work visas and permits (held by individuals who are currently present in Israel) that are set to expire before 9 November 2023 are being automatically extended until 9 November 2023.

Key developments

The PIBA added that unless another extension is granted, holders of work visas that expire on or before 9 November 2023 must apply for renewal before 9 November 2023 as per the usual procedures. Those with ongoing applications are likely to experience delays due to staff shortages at the offices of the immigration authorities in Israel and foreign consular posts around the world.

On 7 October 2023, the Israeli Foreign Workers Administration announced an increase in the operational hours of its call center for foreign workers. Work visa and permit holders impacted by the ongoing crisis may contact the call center at +1700707889. Many foreign nationals have already left the country.

Foreign airlines have canceled many flights to and from Israel, though flights with Israeli airlines continue to operate at this time.

Land border crossings from Israel to Egypt and Jordan are open in limited reception hours. Those who remain in Israel may reach out to their home country's consular post to receive the latest information concerning repatriation flights.

Impact on employers

For foreign nationals who remain in Israel, employers may ensure that they have registered with their home country consulates. Employers may also consider gathering data such as a comprehensive headcount report for impacted employees that includes their: (a) country of employment, (b) country/ies of nationality; (c) primary country of residence; (d) current location (e.g., is the employee on holiday or part of the local headcount, are they at a location that offers shelter or a sealed/secure room); (e) passport and visa details; (f) dependents' information. Employers may also consider mobilizing their vendors and ensuring alignment among stakeholders and with respect their approach to supporting impacted 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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