

Global Immigration alert

October 2024



South Africa

South Africa provides additional clarifications regarding its new points-based system

Executive summary

On 18 October 2024, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) issued additional clarifications regarding the new points-based system for certain Work Visas.

Background

Effective 9 October 2024, the DHA implemented a new points-based system for Critical Skills and General Work Visa applications. Under this system, the authorities will assess applications based on the applicant's occupation, educational qualification, work experience, language proficiency, income and type of job offer.

Key developments

A week after introducing the new points-based system, the DHA announced the following clarifications:

- ▶ Applicants who have a job offer from a Trusted Employer will be awarded 30 points (and not 20 points, as previously announced by the DHA).
- ▶ The points-based system will not apply to the following categories of applicants and the DHA will continue to process these applications based on the laws that were in place at the time of their submission:
 - ▶ Individuals who hold an occupation listed in the [2023 Critical Skills List](#) and had applied for a Critical Skills Work Visa on or before 9 October 2024.
 - ▶ Individuals who had submitted General Work Visa or appeal applications before 9 October 2024 and whose applications were pending adjudication as of that date.

- ▶ Applicants who scheduled an appointment at a visa center or a South African embassy or consulate before 9 October 2024 (regardless of their appointment date) but had not yet submitted their application as of that date. These individuals must submit proof that they had secured an appointment before 9 October 2024.
- ▶ Holders of Zimbabwe Exemption Permits (ZEPs) who seek to apply for Critical Skills or General Work Visas. Applications submitted by these individuals will be processed according to the terms and conditions applicable to them under the ZEP scheme.
- ▶ Individuals who submitted Critical Skills or General Work Visas applications on or after 18 October 2024 are partially exempt from the requirement to submit a South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) certificate and can submit their visa application along with proof that they have applied for a SAQA certificate (instead of the SAQA certificate itself).

Impact on employers

Employers may consider these new clarifications and review and amend their workforce policies as required.

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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