

Mobility: Immigration alert

May 2020



Israel

Updated COVID-19: Ministry of Economy temporary procedure

Executive summary

A temporary procedure with the Ministry of Economy was put in place to accommodate companies' urgent business needs and special economic circumstances along with facilitating arrivals of foreign experts to Israel for work purposes, even though as of March 2020 foreign nationals are not allowed entry to Israel.

Population and Immigration Authorities in Israel are back to work according to regular work hours, normal reception, and standard processing time for visa applications.

Key issues

Special procedure for urgent work visits to Israel by the Ministry of Economy

Specific unique and urgent requests for work travel to Israel by foreign experts will be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Ministry of Economy in Israel, at their discretion. As of 18 March 2020, foreign nationals are not allowed to enter Israel, unless their center of life is in Israel.

The procedure with the Ministry of Economy is performed in parallel to the visa application process with the Ministry of Interior.

The request must be approved by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Border Control. It can be applied for a few day visits as well as long term assignments. The company should meet the relevant health criteria, inter alia, home quarantine for some long visits, designated transportation and accommodation, expert responsibilities etc.

Standard processing time depends on the urgency of arrival in Israel and could range between one to three weeks.

Next steps

For companies who need to urgently assign employees to Israel, please contact your local EY advisor or one of the contacts listed below.

Population and Immigration Authorities are back to regular work

All local Ministry of Interior offices are now open for public reception. Standard processing time for work permits and visa applications is kept with no delays.

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ey.com

Hagit Korine
Tel: +972 54 473 6387
Email: korine.hagit@il.ey.com

Shiri Senderov
Tel: +972 52 888 1299
Email: shiri.senderov@il.ey.com