

Mobility: Immigration alert

November 2021



Israel

New policies for international inbound travelers

Executive summary

The Israeli Government recently implemented several measures that facilitate the entry of international travelers into Israel.

B-1 work visas for visa-exempt nationals

The Israeli Government recently announced that [visa-exempt](#) nationals who apply to obtain B-1 work visas that are valid for up to 90 days, will have their applications processed in 8 to 10 business days, down from six to eight weeks previously. In addition, visa-exempt nationals are no longer required to file their applications with an Israeli Embassy or Consulate. These applicants may now enter into Israel as tourists and convert their immigration status from tourist to worker from within Israel, by applying to the Ministry of the Interior. Travelers who require a visa to enter into Israel are ineligible for expedited B-1 work visa processing. These travelers are still required to apply for B-1 work visas at an Israeli Embassy or Consulate, and subject to processing times of 8 to 10 weeks.

Relaxed policies for certain work permit holders

Effective 1 November 2021, visa-exempt nationals may apply to work in Israel for up to 90 days without receiving a recommendation from the Israeli Ministry of the Economy, provided they are [fully vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 or they [recovered](#) from COVID-19, and they received the final dose of an [approved COVID-19 vaccine](#) no more than six months prior to their work permit application filing date. Previously, fully vaccinated and recovered travelers were required to obtain a recommendation from the Ministry of the Economy prior to being granted an Israeli work permit.

Fully vaccinated visa-exempt nationals who received the final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine more than six months prior to applying for a work permit, or who recovered from COVID-19 and did not receive at least one dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine in the six months preceding the filing of their work permit application, are still required to obtain a recommendation prior to being issued a work permit.

New expedited route for Jewish high-tech workers

The Israeli Government recently introduced a new, expedited route that permits high-tech companies in Israel to sponsor non-Israeli citizens who are Jewish (as defined under the Law of Return) to work in the high-tech industry in Israel using only a B-1 work visa (i.e., without a work permit). Israeli companies are not required to pay government processing fees when sponsoring workers under this route.

New rules for vaccinated business visitors and tourists

Effective 1 November 2021, fully vaccinated travelers may enter into Israel for business visits and tourism, provided they meet the criteria under the [Vaccinated Tourist Scheme](#). Previously, these travelers were only permitted to enter into Israel in limited circumstances (e.g., essential business travel).

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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