

Mobility: Immigration alert

October 2022



Kenya

Citizens must obtain biometric e-passports by 30 November 2022

Executive summary

The Kenyan immigration authorities recently reiterated that the final deadline for Kenyan citizens to obtain a new East African Community (EAC) biometric e-passport is 30 November 2022. Effective December 2022, old Kenyan passports can no longer be used for travel outside Kenya.

Key issues

In March 2016, the East African Community Member States (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania) announced that they would replace each country's paper-based machine-readable passports with regional biometric e-passports (i.e., EAC e-passports) to mitigate the risk of fraud and enhance individual and national security. The new chip-embedded EAC e-passports are generally valid for 10 years and include details such as the holder's name, date of birth, signature, as well as biometric information (e.g., fingerprints).

To obtain an EAC e-passport, Kenyan citizens must submit an application [online](#) and book an appointment to complete the application process in person at a Passport Application and Processing Station in Kenya or a relevant Kenyan Mission abroad. At the time of writing, the Kenyan Missions in London, Washington DC, Berlin, Dubai, Paris and Pretoria are accepting EAC e-passport applications from Kenyan citizens. The Kenyan immigration authorities have set up centers at the Passport Application and Processing Stations in Kenya and the missions listed above to assist citizens with the application process.

Impact on employers

Employers may explore the possibility of supporting their Kenyan employees with obtaining new EAC e-passports before November 2022 to avoid complications relating to their international travel and minimize business disruptions.

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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