

Mobility: Immigration alert

October 2023

South Africa

Updates to the Critical Skills List and Critical Skills Work Visa framework

Executive summary

On 3 October 2023, South Africa's Department of Home Affairs (DHA) published a revised Critical Skills List, which includes updates to the Critical Skills Visa framework.

Key developments

Effective 3 October 2023, engineers who possess "candidate registration status" with a professional body are eligible to apply for Critical Skills Work Visas and permanent residence permits. Previously, only full members of professional bodies with professional designations (e.g., professional engineers) could apply for these visas or permanent residence permits.

In addition, university lecturers who are not members of the South African Council of Educators (SACE) can now apply for Critical Skills Work Visas provided they are registered with a professional body in their field of expertise and employed as educators or lecturers in an accredited higher learning institution in certain subject matter areas. The DHA also added two professional designations in the field of veterinary services (i.e., Veterinarian and Veterinary Nurse) to the [Critical Skills List](#).

Impact on employers

These changes are expected to streamline the immigration process for organizations that employ engineers, as candidate registration typically takes three to six months to complete, compared to the 18 to 24 months required for obtaining full accreditation and professional designations.

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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