



Global Immigration alert

November 2024

Netherlands

Netherlands announces temporary re-introduction of internal border controls

Executive summary

Effective 9 December 2024, the Netherlands will impose internal border controls for a period of six months, impacting its land checkpoints with Belgium and Germany and certain flights from any Schengen or non-Schengen country.

Background

In general, under the [Schengen Agreement](#), Schengen Member States (encompassing all EU Member States with the exception of Ireland and Cyprus) do not conduct controls at their internal borders in order to facilitate free movement for nationals of all signatory countries. However, the [Schengen Borders Code](#) (SBC) allows Member States to temporarily reintroduce controls at their internal borders in case of serious threats to public policy or internal security. In recent years, several countries, including France and [Germany](#), have re-established internal border controls.

Key developments

Effective 9 December 2024, the Netherlands will introduce controls at its land borders with Belgium and Germany in an effort to mitigate illegal migration and human trafficking. Border controls will also be carried out at airports, impacting only specific flights that are considered to pose an increased risk for irregular migration or cross-border crime. The government has stated that controls will be conducted in such a way that they minimally hinder commercial and commuter traffic at affected checkpoints. While the borders will remain open, traffic jams are likely.

The EU Commission is currently evaluating the Netherlands' decision to reinstate border controls, and it has the authority to reject this decision. However, based on previous cases, the Commission is expected to accept the decision.

Impact on employers

Companies may inform employees of potential delays when crossing the affected borders and remind them of the requirement to carry a valid identification document (i.e., an EU/EEA/Swiss ID card or passport, or a passport issued by a third country along with a visa or permit issued by a Schengen country, as applicable).

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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