

Global Immigration alert

December 2025

Republic of Korea

e-Arrival Card to become mandatory for all foreign nationals effective 1 January 2026

Executive summary

Effective 1 January 2026, all foreign nationals entering the Republic of Korea, including foreign business visitors and workers, will be required to apply for an electronic arrival card (e-Arrival Card) in the three days preceding their arrival, with limited exceptions.

Background

The e-Arrival Card replaces the paper disembarkation form and is part of the authorities' broader efforts to streamline immigration clearance and enhance the arrival experience.

Key developments

Individuals may apply for the e-Arrival Card through the Korea Electronic Arrival Card [platform](#). They are required to submit information such as their contact details, passport number, purpose of visit and accommodation details. Upon successful submission, applicants will receive a digital confirmation (i.e., a PDF file with the card number), which can be downloaded and displayed to the authorities upon arrival. Once issued, the card remains valid for 72 hours.

The following categories of individuals are exempt from the e-Arrival Card requirement:

- Registered residents of the Republic of Korea (including permanent residents who have valid domestic residence status)
- Foreign nationals holding a valid Korean Electronic Travel Authorization (K-ETA)
- Certain tourist and student groups
- Airline crew members

Impact on employers

Employers may inform impacted employees about the new requirement to manage employee expectations and mitigate potential 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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