

Global Immigration alert

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Germany

Germany eliminates transit visa requirement for nationals of India

Executive summary

Germany recently announced that nationals of India no longer require an airport transit visa when transiting through a German airport and remaining within the international transit area.

The change, effective 3 June 2026, follows strengthened bilateral cooperation between Germany and India and removes a requirement that previously added time, cost and administrative burden for Indian travelers.

Background

Foreign nationals who remain within the transit area of a German airport during a layover generally do not require a German residence permit or visa, as they do not formally enter Germany by passing through border control.

However, certain nationalities have historically been required to obtain an airport transit visa (Schengen visa type A) even when remaining in the transit zone. In Germany, this requirement is relevant at five airports: Frankfurt (FRA), Munich (MUC), Berlin Brandenburg (BER), Düsseldorf (DUS) and Hamburg (HAM). The airport transit visa requirement has traditionally applied to nationals of the following countries:

- *Under EU rules:* Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka.
- *Under German national regulations:* Cuba, India, Lebanon, Mali, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Türkiye.

Certain exemptions may apply depending on the traveler's circumstances.

Key developments

Under the new rules, nationals of India may transit through German airports without obtaining an airport transit visa, provided they remain within the airport's international transit area. A visa is now required only if the traveler intends to leave the transit zone and formally enter Germany.

The change is expected to simplify travel planning for nationals of India by eliminating the need to obtain a transit visa, which often involved additional costs, appointment wait times and processing periods of approximately three to 15 business days.

Impact on employers

The removal of the airport transit visa requirement reduces administrative obligations associated with business travel and offers greater flexibility when arranging international travel for Indian employees. Employers may update their internal process documents and inform impacted employees about this development.

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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