



Immigration News Highlights

2026 - 43, 27 October 2026



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

The information in Immigration News Highlights is sourced from the independent third parties listed below and shall not be attributed to KPMG. It does not represent the views or opinions of KPMG International Limited or any KPMG member firm. This information is provided for general information only. It is not intended to amount to advice or serve as a substitute for any professional advice, consultation, or service, [and should not be relied on without further consultation].

Although we make reasonable efforts to update this information, we make no representations, warranties or guarantees, whether express or implied, that this information is accurate, complete, or up to date.

[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



Americas

United States

[United States allows fee-free reconsideration of certain adverse immigration decisions](#)

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on 26 October 2026 that eligible class members may request reopening or reconsideration of certain adverse immigration benefit decisions or actions without paying a fee, pursuant to a 28 September 2026 court order. The process applies to eligible adverse decisions issued between 01 April 2025 and 21 April 2026 where the class member believes the decision resulted from the April 2025 parole termination. Eligible adverse decisions include benefit requests that were denied, dismissed, deemed abandoned, administratively closed, rejected, or referred to the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), while requests for employment authorization based on parole are excluded. There is no deadline for eligible class members to submit a request, but they must explain how the April 2025 parole termination affected their eligibility and why the decision should be reopened or reconsidered. USCIS will review requests on a case-by-case basis, and the fee-free process does not cover appeals, which remain subject to standard procedures and requirements.

[Read more](#)

[United States introduces pre-travel attestation requirement for air passengers](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an order on 22 October 2026 establishing a new attestation requirement for passengers travelling to the United States by air from any foreign country, in response to the Ebola disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). From 03 November 2026, covered passengers must provide a signed paper or digital attestation confirming that they have not been present in the DRC during the 21 days before boarding a US-bound flight, including flights connecting through the United States. Airlines and other aircraft operators must verify the attestation before boarding, deny boarding to passengers who do not provide it, and retain copies for at least 42 days for submission to the US Government upon request. Presence in the DRC includes physical presence or transit through a DRC airport, even without leaving the aircraft or airport, while specified government-authorized exemptions may apply. The temporary order will remain effective until it is rescinded or modified based on public health considerations, or until 18 December 2026, whichever occurs first.

[Read more](#)

[United States begins approving H-1B petitions without US\\$100,000 fee](#)

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) have begun approving H-1B petitions filed without the US\$100,000 fee after federal courts blocked enforcement of the requirement. The fee, introduced through a presidential proclamation in September 2025 and subsequently extended until 21 September 2027, primarily affected certain new H-1B petitions for workers outside the US. USCIS has indicated that it is complying with the court orders while the related legal challenges remain pending but could collect the fee if the orders blocking enforcement are lifted. Some petitions filed under premium processing have remained pending beyond the applicable 15-business-day processing period, although approvals have started to be issued. The development may allow employers to reconsider overseas candidates previously excluded from recruitment because of the fee, including certain workers previously counted against the H-1B cap who have remaining time under the six-year limit.

[Read more](#)



Asia Pacific

Australia

[Australia launches digital travel declaration at Western Sydney International Airport](#)

The Australian Government announced the rollout of the web-based Australia Travel Declaration at Western Sydney International Airport from 26 October 2026, making it the first Australian airport to offer the new format to passengers arriving on any airline. The digital form provides an alternative to the paper incoming passenger card and allows international travelers to submit immigration, customs and biosecurity information up to 72 hours before travel. Travelers, including families, receive a single QR code to facilitate their exit from the airport, while earlier submission of information is intended to support passenger processing and identification of potential customs and biosecurity risks. The Government has committed more than AUD56 million over four years from 2026/2027 to expand the web-based declaration to all international airports and seaports. The Australia Travel Declaration is expected to be rolled

out nationally in phases over the next 12 to 18 months, while the paper incoming passenger card will remain available.

[Read more](#)

Malaysia

Malaysia enhanced online applications for study permission and secondary work location approvals

MYXpats Centre announced on 22 October 2026 that enhancements to the ESD Online system will take effect from 01 November 2026 to streamline selected immigration-related application processes. The enhancements will allow Employment Pass holders to submit applications for Permission to Study online through the Sub-Product menu, replacing the previous manual submission process at ESD Putrajaya. The update also extends online Permission to Study applications to spouses holding a Dependent Pass, in addition to the existing availability for children of Employment Pass holders. Furthermore, applications for Permission to Work at a Second Location will be available online through the Sub-Product menu in ESD Online. The announcement states that physical submissions for these sub-product services will no longer be accepted at the Immigration Department or MYXpats Centre counters from the implementation date.

[Read more](#)

New Zealand

New Zealand implements changes to student visa rules

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) implemented four changes to student visa settings from 27 October 2026, including three measures aimed at protecting student visa integrity and one providing students additional time after completing their studies. Unlimited in-study work rights for master's-by-research students have been removed, with all master's students limited to 25 hours of work per week during study and full-time work during holidays. INZ also strengthened immigration instructions to specify that English language ability is a key consideration in determining whether students can meet their visa conditions and expanded the circumstances in which student visa processing may be formally suspended, including while potential non-compliance by an education provider is being determined. Student visas that expire based on the course end date will remain valid for two months after the course ends, instead of one month, giving students additional time to determine their next steps. The existing 31 March expiry date applicable depending on the duration and course of study remains unchanged.

[Read more](#)



Europe and Africa

Belgium

Belgium narrows bottleneck occupation list for third-country recruitment

The Walloon Region implemented a revised list of bottleneck occupations from 01 October 2026 to 30 September 2027 for employers recruiting qualified third-country nationals under the shortage-occupation route. The updated list has been reduced from 56 to 31 occupations, with new roles added in areas including healthcare, food production and inland navigation, while several constructions, transport, automotive and industrial occupations have been removed or

reclassified. Employers seeking to recruit third-country nationals for occupations no longer listed will need to consider alternative work-authorization routes with different eligibility or processing requirements. Workers whose occupations appeared on a previous list but have since been removed may remain eligible to renew an existing Single Permit, subject to applicable conditions, including continuing with the same employer, position and working conditions. Inclusion on the revised list may facilitate access to the shortage-occupation route but does not guarantee Single Permit approval or remove other applicable requirements.

[Read more](#)

European Union

European Union approves single e-declaration portal for posted workers

The European Parliament approved a regulation in October 2026 establishing a single European Union (EU) digital portal for posted-worker declarations, following a provisional agreement with the Council of the European Union in June 2026. The regulation will replace separate national declaration processes in participating member states with one EU portal and a standard online form covering information on service providers, posted workers and postings. Participation will be voluntary, but member states that join will use only the EU portal and cannot require additional or parallel national declarations, while non-participating states will retain their existing systems. The framework also covers service providers established outside the EU, with participating member states able to use the portal for declarations involving third-country service providers posting workers to their territory. The Council must formally adopt the regulation before publication and entry into force, and no date has yet been announced for the portal to become operational.

[Read more](#)

Hungary

Hungary clarifies service and appeal procedures for residence permit decisions

Hungary's National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing updated information for applicants on 26 October 2026 regarding the service of certain residence permit decisions and applicable appeal deadlines. The Directorate-General clarified that refusal or termination decisions concerning applications submitted at diplomatic missions for the issuance, replacement or substitution of residence permits, as well as certain national permanent residence permit extensions, are served by public notice because postal delivery abroad cannot be tracked. Decisions are deemed served on the 15th day after the notice is published, and the diplomatic mission also informs applicants of the decision, while the legal effects and appeal period are calculated from the date of service by public notice. Applicants have eight days from service to appeal a residence permit refusal or termination of proceedings, while rejected applications to extend a national permanent residence permit issued in the interests of the national economy have a 15-day appeal period. The Directorate-General advised applicants to regularly check public notices and closely monitor applicable appeal deadlines.

[Read more](#)

Uganda

Uganda tightens entry and transit measures amid regional Ebola risk

Uganda's Ministry of Health announced on 25 October 2026 strengthened border and travel measures to prevent the reintroduction of Ebola while transmission continues in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). All travelers entering Uganda by air, land or water must

complete a Passenger Locator Form and undergo screening by Port Health services, with no exemptions, including for diplomats and United Nations personnel. Movement across the Uganda–DRC border remains restricted to essential travelers, while non-essential DRC nationals seeking entry will be returned to the DRC and returning Ugandans with a history of travel to the DRC must undergo 21 days of quarantine at their own cost. Travelers with a history of travel to the DRC are not permitted to transit through Uganda by any means of transport, while essential travelers may enter subject to mandatory screening and applicable entry requirements. Listed contacts of an active case will also be placed on a no-fly list and prevented from leaving Uganda until completing the mandatory 21-day monitoring period.

[Read more](#)

United Kingdom

United Kingdom proposes ETA exemption for approved tour operator customers

The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee recommended on 22 October 2026 that the UK Government exempt customers of approved tour operators from the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) requirement when travelling to Northern Ireland. The Committee highlighted that the ETA, which costs GBP20 per person, creates additional cost and administrative requirements for affected travelers and can influence whether Northern Ireland is included in tour itineraries. It stated that the current ETA requirement does not adequately reflect Northern Ireland's unique circumstances and its land border with the Republic of Ireland. The proposed exemption would apply to customers of approved tour operators, with approval potentially withdrawn where a business is found to be using the exemption to bypass UK immigration controls. The Committee stated that the exemption could encourage tour operators to include Northern Ireland in their itineraries while maintaining safeguards against misuse of the immigration system.

[Read more](#)

United Kingdom updates carrier guidance on immigration document checks and charges

UK Visas and Immigration updated its carrier guidance on 26 October 2026 on document checks, digital immigration permissions, and carriers' liability for passengers travelling to the United Kingdom. The updated guidance clarifies that where a passenger holds a digital eVisa, a 0A (board) response may be accepted as evidence of permission to travel, provided it was generated against the document being used for travel. It also addresses 0Z or 0B (check) messages for passengers relying on physical evidence of immigration permission and sets out checks relating to Electronic Travel Authorizations (ETAs) and digital permissions. More generally, carriers are responsible for checking that passengers hold valid travel documents and, where required, the appropriate visa, permission to travel, or ETA before carriage. The guidance also covers Transit Without Visa arrangements, Section 40 carrier charges, representations and objections, appeals, Approved Gate Check status, and support available to carriers.

[Read more](#)



Thomas Wolf

Head of KPMG's Global
Immigration Network

T: +49 30 530 199-300

E: twolf@kpmg-law.com

social.kpmg



[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

© 2026 Copyright owned by one or more of the KPMG International entities. KPMG International entities provide no services to clients. All rights reserved.

KPMG is a global organization of independent professional services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. KPMG is the brand under which the member firms of KPMG International Limited ("KPMG International") operate and provide professional services. "KPMG" is used to refer to individual member firms within the KPMG organization or to one or more member firms collectively.

KPMG firms operate in 143 countries and territories with more than 265,000 partners and employees working in member firms around the world. Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such. Each KPMG member firm is responsible for its own obligations and liabilities. KPMG International Limited is a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG International Limited and its related entities do not provide services to clients. For more detail about our structure, please visit <https://kpmg.com/xx/en/home/misc/governance.html>.