

Legal Update - Immigration

March 2020

New Guidelines regarding Visas for Foreign Nationals in Israel in light of the Coronavirus Outbreak

In light of the Coronavirus outbreak, and the significant restrictions imposed on foreign nationals entering Israel, the Population and Immigration Authority recently issued a series of guidelines regarding visas for foreigners and foreign workers in Israel. For your convenience, we have summarized the relevant instructions below.

Preventing the entry of tourists and foreigners - except for citizens who will prove that the "center of their lives" is in Israel

Israel prevents foreign nationals, from all countries of the world, from entering its borders, including citizens holding visas of all kinds. Only a foreign resident who will prove that his life center is in Israel will be allowed to enter the country. The application for entry will be submitted to the Israel consulate abroad, with appropriate references. Spouses and children of Israeli citizens can also enter the country.

Automatic extension of visas of foreigners staying in Israel

Any foreign national who holds a permit of one of the following types, and whose visa expires these days, such visa will be automatically renewed through June 30, 2020, without the need to contact the Population and Immigration Authority Bureau:

- A5 visa (temporary resident)
- B1 visa (work visa without restrictions not including building, experts and nursing)
- A1 visa (people eligible to make Aliyah according to the Law of Return)
- A2 visa (student)
- A3 visa (clergyman)
- A4 Visa (visa for accompanying A2 and A3 visas)
- B4 visa (volunteer)

Extending visas for people holding a visa under section 2(a)(5) (infiltrators and asylum seekers)

Any infiltrator who holds a residence permit that expires these days, the visa will be extended automatically for two months from the day of expiry.

Experts and foreign workers in the building and agriculture industry

As of now, no guidance has been published regarding such employees' visas. This means that such workers whose visa expire, must leave Israel unless otherwise instructed.

Please contact us with any question regarding the above.

Sincerely, Fischer Behar Chen Well Orion & Co.

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