



GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

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Sweden - COVID-19: Updated Immigration/Travel Measures

On 27 August, the Swedish government decided to extend the current entry ban until 31 October.¹ There have also been some changes in the list of countries whose residents are exempted from the entry ban.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The extended exemptions from the travel ban could signify welcome relief for companies and individuals working and doing business in Sweden.

The Swedish Migration Agency's 4-month deadline to start employment in Sweden after the approval of a work permit has been causing significant issues as a result of the travel restrictions.

The news that all work and residence permit holders will now be allowed entry is therefore a positive development.

The exemption for residents of additional countries also means a gradual opening for business travellers.

Background

A temporary entry ban was introduced on 19 March and has since then been extended on several occasions. A recent extension, announced on 2 July, was due to last until 31 August. The latest extension, announced on 27 August, now lasts until 31 October. However, the entry restrictions have also been reduced as of 4 July for certain categories of travellers.² Consequently, European Union (EU) nationals, their family members, and work/residence permit holders are now allowed to enter Sweden regardless of the purpose of their visit. (For prior coverage, see GMS [Flash Alert 2020-297](#), 26 June 2020.)

The group of people allowed to enter Sweden has also been further extended with residents of certain specified countries now being exempted from the previous entry ban. The exempted countries are:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Australia | Rwanda |
| Canada | South Korea |
| Georgia | Thailand |
| Japan | Tunisia |
| New Zealand | Uruguay |

Residents of Algeria, Montenegro, Morocco, and Serbia were previously included on the list, but have now been removed. However, other exemptions may still apply to residents of these countries.

KPMG NOTE

In addition, the entry ban does not apply to people with an essential need or function in Sweden. These functions include highly-skilled workers, if the job cannot be postponed or performed remotely, and certain categories of health-care employees and researchers.

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 See (in English) 27 August 2020 Ministry of Justice [press release](#).
- 2 See (in English) 2 July 2020 Ministry of Justice [press release](#).

RELATED RESOURCE:

This article is excerpted, with permission, from "[August Update Sweden: Immigration Restrictions Related to COVID-19](#)," (28 August 2020), an online publication of KPMG AB, a KPMG International member firm in Sweden.

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