



GMS Flash Alert

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Immigration Edition

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Belgium - Latest Update on List of High-Risk Countries

On 2 and 9 July 2021, an update was published on the countries for which Belgium installed a travel ban. In our last [report](#), we noted that the Belgian government had introduced additional travel restrictions, resulting in a travel ban for individuals travelling from 27 countries (including Brazil, India, and South Africa) into Belgium. (For prior coverage, see [GMS Flash Alert 2021-192](#), 1 July 2021.)

This *GMS Flash Alert* highlights the update of the list of countries from which entry into Belgium is, in principle, denied.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The various COVID-19 containment measures have had a profound impact on both professional and personal travel. Companies worldwide have had to cancel or postpone business trips and assignments. However, many companies are slowly starting to resume their international travel plans and to prepare for upcoming business travel and assignments. Notwithstanding, the increased travel restrictions triggered by the rise of new COVID-19 variants could again impact travel and relocations to Belgium.

Employers and their mobile employees may need to – at least for the time being – reconsider their plans. To the extent possible, it may be prudent for some individuals to delay any plans to depart Belgium (if their plan is to return to the country) to prevent complications and the possibility of being refused re-entry at the border, as the situation is fluid.

Context

Belgium decided to identify a list of 27 “high-risk countries” and introduce measures intended to contain the further spread of the new variants in Belgium. On 2 and 9 July 2021, an update on the list of countries was published on the website of the federal government.¹

Consequences

The institution of this travel ban means that in many cases third-country nationals originating from one of the 27 countries will not be able to travel to Belgium until further notice (even if they received their work permit/single permit approval before 26 June 2021). The only exceptions to this travel ban concern:

- diplomatic missions;
- Belgian residents/nationals (travelling back from one of those 27 countries);
- professional travel undertaken by transport personnel and seafarers.

KPMG NOTE

Employers will need to stay abreast of the changes to the list of high-risk countries since their plans for economic migration or business travel arrangements to/from Belgium could be impacted.

Which Countries?

The following countries are considered as high-risk countries and individuals originating from those countries are not allowed to enter Belgium respectively as from 26 June 2021 or 3 July 2021, until further notice:

- Argentina
- Bahrain (**until 10 July 2021**)
- Bangladesh (**until 10 July 2021**)
- Bolivia
- Botswana
- Brazil (already denied entry since 28 April 2021)
- Chile
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (**until 10 July 2021**)
- eSwatini (Swaziland)
- Georgia (**until 10 July 2021**)
- India (**until 3 July 2021**)
- Indonesia (**until 10 July 2021**)
- Lesotho
- **Mexico (as from 10 July 2021)**
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nepal (**until 10 July 2021**)
- Pakistan (**until 3 July 2021**)
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Russia (**until 10 July 2021**)
- South Africa (already denied entry since 28 April 2021)
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia (**until 10 July 2021**)
- Uganda (**until 10 July 2021**)
- United Kingdom (**until 10 July 2021**)
- Uruguay
- **Zambia (as from 10 July 2021)**
- Zimbabwe

This list will be reviewed regularly and for a real time update at the following link should be visited: "Measures for territories of countries classified as very high risk" at: <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/countries-with-high-risk/>.

KPMG NOTE

Any questions or concerns regarding any third-country nationals wanting to work or currently working in Belgium should be directed to your qualified professional services contact or a member of the team (see "Contact Us" section) with the KPMG International member firm in Belgium.

FOOTNOTE:

1 For the updated list of high-risk countries (in English), go to: <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/countries-with-high-risk/>.

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Contact us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional* or one of the following professionals with the KPMG International member firm in Belgium:



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The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in Belgium.

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