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CLIENT UPDATE



Relaxation of Procedures - Criteria for Entry of Foreign Nationals to Israel

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As part of the general relaxation of restrictions and the gradual re-opening of the economy, the Israeli government has eased the criteria for entry of foreign nationals to Israel.

The new criteria are as follows:

- a. **B/1 Experts – Foreign Experts who required for national infrastructure and/or for the continued functioning of the economy, will be allowed to enter the country, subject to the recommendation of the relevant Israeli ministry (usually the Ministry of Energy or the Ministry of Economy).**
- b. **Definition of "center of life" of a foreign national (who is not married to an Israeli citizen) –** A foreign national whose center of life is in Israel may enter the country after approval of the Population Authority, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and receipt of a letter signed by the Deputy Director General of the Israeli Consular Division. The determination of a person's center of life will be based on their having been present in Israel a total of 181 days during the year preceding the application. If the visitor does not meet the 181 day criterion, within the year preceding the date of application, the Consular Division will extend its consideration 181 days of presence in Israel as of January 1st 2019.
- c. **Mixed families – Israeli citizens married to foreign nationals –**
 - The foreign national must be registered in the Population Register as a spouse (in the Population Authority data base and/or in the Consular Division's systems). If the

foreign national is not registered in the system, but is in the possession of a marriage certificate from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, his or her entry will be approved on the basis of the marriage certificate.

- The center of life of the Israeli citizen or the foreign national, as defined above, is in Israel.
- If the center of the Israeli citizen's life is in Israel, the criterion for determining the foreign national's center of life will be based on three months' (90 days) presence in Israel in the last year or calendar year, instead of the 181 day requirement for foreign nationals who are not married to Israelis.

d. Parents of a foreign national who is marrying an Israeli citizen and parents of an Israeli citizen with a foreign passport will be allowed to attend their child's wedding in Israel.

e. **There is no restriction on entry of career diplomats and people carrying service passports.** The foregoing are required to self-isolate (non-state, hotels) upon arrival.

f. **A2 Students - center of life in Israel for three months** – students who previously commenced their studies at an Israeli academic institution or yeshiva (not new students) will be allowed to enter the county upon the resumption of studies.

g. **A2 Postdoctoral Students** – will be allowed to enter the country on the basis of a letter of approval from the relevant academic institution, after examination by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Population Authority.

h. **A2 Medical Students** – will be allowed to enter the country after receiving approval from the Ministry of Health.

i. **Residents of the West Bank** – are not allowed to enter Israel from Ben Gurion Airport, except for exceptional and humanitarian cases, on the basis of an application to the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories and a recommendation of the latter.

j. **B2 - Medical tourism** – currently not allowed, other than exceptions approved by the Minister of the Interior / the Director General of the Population Authority and with the recommendation of the Ministry of Health.

k. **Children of Israeli citizens who are not registered in the Population Register** – minors (up to the age of 18) are authorized to enter the country even without being registered in the Population Register (although it is desirable that they be registered before entering the country, if possible). Adults (above the age of 18) – will be considered in exceptional cases.

l. **'Gradual Process'** – entry into Israel will be possible when the emergency situation is over.

m. **Waivers of Israeli Citizen** – approved.

* The above criteria may be subject to changes or variations by the relevant Ministry.

** Entry to Israel will be subject to Ministry of Health requirements, as published from time to time, including, but not limited to, self-quarantine period.

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