

Immigration Law

ALERT | 24 July 2025



In this issue

KENYA

Kenya amends immigration rules, broadens eTA exemptions for African and other nationals



For more insight into our expertise and services

IMMIGRATION LAW ALERT

Kenya amends immigration rules, broadens eTA exemptions for African and other nationals



On 30 May 2025, the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration issued Legal Notice No. 93, which introduced key amendments to the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Regulations. The amendments introduce Regulation 15G and a new Seventeenth Schedule, effectively exempting all African nationals (except those from Somalia and Libya), as well as certain Caribbean countries, from the requirement to obtain an electronic travel authorisation (eTA) before travelling to Kenya.

Practical implications for travellers to Kenya

The introduction of the Seventeenth Schedule brings significant changes to Kenya's eTA requirements.

East African Community partner states

Citizens of East African Community member states remain exempt from the eTA and may stay in Kenya for up to 180 days.

Other African countries (90-day stay)

Nationals of the following countries are now exempt from the eTA for stays not exceeding 90 days: Botswana, Union of Comoros, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Other African countries (60-day stay)

Nationals of these countries are exempt from the eTA for stays not exceeding 60 days: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sudan, Togo and Tunisia.

Select non-African countries (90-day stay)

Nationals from the following Caribbean and Pacific nations are also exempt from the eTA for up to 90 days: Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brunei, Cyprus, Dominica, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Kiribati, Malaysia, Maldives, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, San Marino, Singapore, Solomon Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.



**IMMIGRATION LAW
ALERT**

Kenya amends immigration rules, broadens eTA exemptions for African and other nationals

CONTINUED

Transit passengers and crew members are exempt

Transit passengers who remain within the airport during layovers are exempt from the eTA.

Crew members of ships, aircraft, trains, or vehicles en route to destinations outside Kenya are also exempt, provided they are listed on the official crew manifest.

Holders of permits and passes are exempt

The following individuals remain exempt from the eTA requirement:

- Holders of Kenya permanent residence permits
- Holders of valid work permits and passes
- Holders of valid Kenya re-entry passes
- Holders of laissez-passers from prescribed international and regional organisations
- Holders of diplomatic, official, and service passports from prescribed countries

Conclusion

These exemptions fulfil the commitment to remove visa requirements for citizens from the listed countries, which will significantly ease travel for business, tourism and family visits to Kenya from across the continent. The amendments also mean that travellers from exempted countries can now enter Kenya without applying for an eTA, which simplifies their travel logistics.

Alex Muchira and Prince Kiptoo

Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr

**Legal500
2025****TOP TIER**

OUR TEAM

For more information about our Immigration Law sector and services in South Africa, Kenya and Namibia, please contact:



Sammy Ndolo

Managing Partner | Kenya

T +254 731 086 649

+254 204 409 918

+254 710 560 114

E sammy.ndolo@cdhlegal.com



Imraan Mahomed

Director:

Employment Law

T +27 (0)11 562 1459

E imraan.mahomed@cdhlegal.com



Alex Muchira

Partner | Kenya

T +254 731 086 649

+254 204 409 918

+254 710 560 114

E alex.muchira@cdhlegal.com



Abednego Mutie

Senior Associate | Kenya

T +254 731 086 649

+254 204 409 918

+254 710 560 114

E abednego.mutie@cdhlegal.com



Taryn York

Senior Associate:

Employment Law

T +27 (0)11 562 1732

E taryn.york@cdhlegal.com



Mapaseka Nketu

Paralegal:

Employment Law

T +27 (0)11 562 1178

E mapaseka.nketu@cdhlegal.com

BBBEE STATUS: LEVEL ONE CONTRIBUTOR

Our BBBEE verification is one of several components of our transformation strategy and we continue to seek ways of improving it in a meaningful manner.

PLEASE NOTE

This information is published for general information purposes and is not intended to constitute legal advice. Specialist legal advice should always be sought in relation to any particular situation. Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr will accept no responsibility for any actions taken or not taken on the basis of this publication.

JOHANNESBURG

1 Protea Place, Sandton, Johannesburg, 2196. Private Bag X40, Benmore, 2010, South Africa.

Dx 154 Randburg and Dx 42 Johannesburg.

T +27 (0)11 562 1000 F +27 (0)11 562 1111 E jhb@cdhlegal.com

CAPE TOWN

11 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, 8001. PO Box 695, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa. Dx 5 Cape Town.

T +27 (0)21 481 6300 F +27 (0)21 481 6388 E ctn@cdhlegal.com

NAIROBI

Merchant Square, 3rd floor, Block D, Riverside Drive, Nairobi, Kenya. P.O. Box 22602-00505, Nairobi, Kenya.

T +254 731 086 649 | +254 204 409 918 | +254 710 560 114

E cdhkenya@cdhlegal.com

NAMIBIA

1st Floor Maerua Office Tower, Cnr Robert Mugabe Avenue and Jan Jonker Street, Windhoek 10005, Namibia

PO Box 97115, Maerua Mall, Windhoek, Namibia, 10020

T +264 833 730 100 E cdhnamibia@cdhlegal.com

STELLENBOSCH

14 Louw Street, Stellenbosch Central, Stellenbosch, 7600.

T +27 (0)21 481 6400 E cdh Stellenbosch@cdhlegal.com

©2025 14911/JUL

