



**Work visas for Employees in High-Tech Companies in Israel**

In February 2018, the Population and Immigration Authority released a new pilot guideline that establishes relief and favorable arrangements for high-tech companies who are recognized by the Israel Innovation Authority to employ foreign workers with special expertise connected to the products or services being developed.

This pilot was created in the context of the Israeli government's policy to encourage the high-tech industry given its central importance to the economy and the government's recognition that foreign experts will likely contribute to the sector. Therefore, the government concluded that it was important to remove existing obstacles to the employment of foreign experts in Israel.

The guideline provides for the receipt of a permit to employ a foreign expert in the high-tech sector in an expedited process that eliminates a significant amount of the documentation required in order to obtain the permit. The Authority has undertaken to make efforts to issue an employment permit within 6 days of the date of submission of the request, and following the issue of the permit, the foreign employee will be permitted to enter Israel to work – this in contrast to the regular process that takes approximately two months.

The guideline also allows a high-tech company to request to employ a foreign employee who completed an academic degree in an Israeli academic institution in electrical engineering, electronics, computers (including software engineering), information systems, and computer science.

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Israel  
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Another new feature of the guideline is that it enables a foreign expert employed in the high-tech sector to request a residency and employment permit for his or her spouse – this without the need for the spouse to apply for a permit in a separate and independent process. This feature provides significant relief which will likely provide an incentive for foreign workers to relocate to Israel for the purpose of working in the high-tech sector.

For further details see our Immigration Practice's webpage:

<https://www.fbclawyers.com/practice-areas/immigration/>

**We would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.**

**Sincerely,**

**Fischer Behar Chen Well Orion & Co.**

For further information please feel free to contact:

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