



Legal Update

October 2020

Immigration Practice

COVID-19: Entry of foreign executives and businessmen from abroad to Israel

In March 2020, with the coronavirus outbreak in the world and Israel, the State of Israel imposed significant restrictions on foreign nationals' entry into Israel. As a rule, the entry of foreigners into Israel is prohibited, except for a limited list of exceptional cases (see our publication on this subject [here](#)).

Due to the restrictions, managers and businesspeople without a work visa could not enter Israel for business visits. In October 2020, the Population and Immigration Authority and the Ministry of Health published a procedure that allows executives and businessmen from "green" countries to obtain a permit to visit Israel for business visits of up to 7 days. The list of green countries is updated from time to time and can be seen on the Ministry of Health [website](#). Entry will only be allowed to those who have not visited a "red" country in the 14 days before the flight to Israel.

Under the guidelines, the arrival of foreign businessmen in Israel will be approved for one of the following purposes:

- **Transfer or receipt of professional knowledge** - includes employee training, knowledge transfer, and new product skills.
- **Maintaining functional and managerial continuity** - if the arrival of senior representatives from abroad is required to promote decisions or processes in a global Israeli company or a foreign company with a branch in Israel.
- **Promotion of foreign investments** - the arrival of potential foreign investors for negotiations, due diligence or signature of a transaction.
- **Business development, marketing and sales** - the arrival of potential or existing customers from abroad.

The permit will be granted only when there is no non-physical alternative for a visit and when there is an urgent need to visit Israel, subject to the Ministry of Economic and Industry's recommendation.

The businessman from abroad and the inviting company from Israel must apply for the permit at least 15 days before the planned arrival to Israel.

As can be seen, the criteria for granting an entry permit to Israel these days are strict. Also, in light of a large number of applications, there are currently significant delays in obtaining permits for applicants to enter the country. In order to avoid refusals and delays in entering Israel, it is essential to carry out the process accompanied by a professional who is knowledgeable in the details and knows the relevant contacts who can expedite the application's processing.

In addition to the procedure regarding the entry of foreign businesspeople as detailed above, there is an expedited route for obtaining a work permit for experts and foreign managers for a period of up to 45 days, subject to a recommendation from the Ministry of Economy.

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:

Adv. Amit Bechler

abechler@fbclawyers.com

+972.3.6069656

.....
The information provided herein is solely for informational purposes and shall not be construed as a legal opinion or legal advice of any sort.

All rights reserved to Fischer Behar Chen Well Orion & Co.

In order to subscribe to or be removed from the distribution list please e-mail: news@fbclawyers.com