



November 2020



## Protocol for the arrival of businesspeople from abroad to Israel during the coronavirus pandemic

The Ministry of Economy and Industry, together with the Population and Immigration Authority, formed a protocol aimed at assisting Israeli businesses in maintaining their regular business operations during this challenging time, and permitting the arrival of businesspeople from "green" countries to Israel, without taking a COVID 19 test nor entering into isolation, and from "red" countries, under certain restrictions.

### WHO WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER ISRAEL

**Businesspeople entering from a Green country** - who are not Israeli citizens, who are arriving for economic-business reasons, whose contribution to the Israeli host company is vital and important, and who are entering Israel to enable the Israeli company's proper functioning and prevent damage during the coronavirus pandemic to the Israeli company or the market, in cases that the business meetings cannot be held virtually, and the said person is planning to stay in Israel for **less than 7 days**.

Businesspeople who stayed in a red country, during the 14 days prior to entering Israel, will not be permitted to enter.

Layovers for connecting flights in the airport of a red country, for less than 12 hours, will not be considered as a stay in a red country.

**Businesspeople entering from a Red country** - who are not Israeli citizens, entering Israel on urgent economic business whose contribution to the economy goes beyond the interest presented by the person requesting the approval of entrance, and the said person is planning to stay in Israel for **less than 4 days and has a negative result on a PCR test** (coronavirus test).

The classifications of countries as green or red is updated [here](#).

## HOW TO APPLY FOR AN ENTRY APPROVAL

**Businesspeople entering from a Green country** - Must fill out an [online request](#), which will be emailed directly to the mailbox of the Israeli contact person at the host company according to the written request.

A CEO/deputy CEO or authorized signatory of the host company - must fill out an online request, to which the foreign businessperson's form that was sent to their mailbox must be attached.

The Ministry of Economy and Industry and the Population and Immigration Authority will decide if the application meets the conditions [below](#).

**Businesspeople entering from a Red country** - Must fill out a [request form](#) and send it by mail to the contact person of the host company.

A CEO/deputy CEO or authorized signatory of the host company must fill out a Hebrew [request form](#) and send it, along with the foreign businessperson's form, to [Tofes.Zarim.adom@economy.gov.il](mailto:Tofes.Zarim.adom@economy.gov.il).

Requests must be submitted at least **15 working days prior to the intended arrival date**.

If the application is denied, **there is an option to appeal** the decision within 30 days, if there is new evidence which was not known at the time of the submission of the original application or a mistake in the original application.

## UPON APPROVAL AND ENTRY

**Businesspeople entering from a Green country** - Must fill out the [entry to Israel declaration](#) online. Upon entry to Israel, they must present the entry permit they received from the Israeli host company.

**Businesspeople entering from a Red country** -

1. Must fill out the [entry to Israel declaration](#) online;
2. Must take a PCR test 48 hours before the time of their departing flight and email the result to the host company.

Upon entry to Israel, they must present the entry permit they received from the Israeli host company, a health insurance policy that covers treatment for COVID-19 (coronavirus) and the negative PCR test.

## THE CRITERIA FOR RECOMMENDING ENTRY TO ISRAEL – GREEN COUNTRIES

- **The arrival to Israel is for one or more of the following reasons:**
  1. To deliver or receive professional knowledge:
    - 1.1. Israeli companies interested in inviting employees or representatives of the company from abroad (for example employees of distributors or agents) for:
      - 1.1.1. training in operations;
      - 1.1.2. sharing knowledge;
      - 1.1.3. training in the use of new products.
    - 1.2. Foreign businesspeople arriving to transfer knowledge to the Israeli company's employees.
  2. To maintain functional and managerial continuity:
    - 2.1. Senior representatives whose arrival is critical for advancing the decisions and processes in a:
      - 2.1.1. transnational Israeli company;
      - 2.1.2. Israeli branch of a foreign company.
  3. To promote foreign investment – the arrival of potential investors for negotiating a deal, performing one of the following:
    - 3.1. due diligence;
    - 3.2. signing a deal.
  4. For business development, marketing and sales - representatives of existing or potential customers.
- **There is no alternative to visiting in person.**
- **There is an urgent need** that requires visiting Israel either for the sake of the host company specifically or for the Israeli economy in general, based on professional and economic parameters.

### For further information:



**Sagit Ohana-Livne**

Partner

✉ sagito@gornitzky.com



**Shani Weiss**

Senior Associate

✉ shaniw@gornitzky.com