

K-ETA Application Guide for 「Priority Entry (Business) Persons」

1 Application and Approval Procedures



2 Eligible Individuals for Priority Entry (Business) Persons

○ **Priority Entry (Business) Persons** are those who intend to enter the Republic of Korea for important business purpose **among the nationals of 91 visa-free entry suspended countries** (Appendix 1) and whose application is submitted to the Ministry of Justice via official letter by the department in charge.

※ From 3rd of May 2021, business persons from 21 countries*, whose nationals are eligible for K-ETA, can apply for K-ETA directly through the K-ETA website (www.k-eta.go.kr) or through the K-ETA mobile application.

* Albania, Andorra, Barbados, Commonwealth of Dominica, Guam, Guyana, Holy See, Ireland, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, New Caledonia, Nicaragua, Palau, Saint Kitts-Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Slovenia, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela

○ Priority Entry (Business) Persons, who are qualified for short-term visit visa (C-3)* at the diplomatic missions abroad, are eligible to apply for K-ETA and those who need a short-term employment visa (C-4) must obtain a visa as before.

* **(C-3 subject)** Those who intends to stay for non-profit generating activities such as market research, business communication, consulting, contract and others, tourism, transit, recuperation, visiting relatives, participating a friendly match, attending events or meetings, cultural art, general training, taking lessons, attending religious ceremony, academic data collection, or other similar purposes.

※ Individuals who intend to work temporarily for profit-making by engaging in short-term employee (C-4), such as temporary performance activities, advertisement • fashion models, lecture • speeches, research, technical instructions are not eligible to apply for K-ETA

○ Department in charge and related fields

- Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (major manufacturing and mid-sized enterprises), Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (culture, sports), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (agriculture and forestry, livestock, food), Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (fisheries, shipping), Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (construction, transportation), Financial Services Commission (finance), Ministry of SMEs and Startups (small and medium enterprises), Ministry of Education (industry-university collaboration), Ministry of Science and ICT (IT, information and communication, fundamental science), Ministry of Health and Welfare (health, medical treatment), Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (food safety, medical equipment, medicine), Defense Acquisition Program Administration (defense industry), Korea Communications Commission (broadcasting)

③ Detailed information

- ① To apply for K-ETA, **domestic company** that wishes to invite foreigners should send company related documents (business registration certificate, etc.) and documents related to the foreign invitee (Applicant List (Attachment 2) and a copy of passport bio page) to **the department in charge.**
- ② **The department in charge** requests for K-ETA through **an official letter to the Ministry of Justice** after verifying the eligibility requirements of the inviting company and the foreign invitee.
- ③ **The Ministry of Justice** evaluates whether the foreign invitee is allowed to enter the country and **notifies the K-ETA application result to the department in charge and the inviting company.**
 - ※ The result is sent to the department in charge via official letter and to the inviting company via e-mail.
- ④ **The inviting company notifies the result of K-ETA application to the foreign invitee** and sends the Ministry of Justice's official letter.
- ⑤ **Foreign invitee who has received K-ETA approval** does not need to obtain a visa, but **must bring the official letter from the Ministry of Justice for ticket issuance and entry to the country.**

④ Comparison with Other Entry Procedures

- The Priority Entry (Business) Persons are possible to enter the country by obtaining a visa from the Korean Embassy or Consulate as before, and also by getting K-ETA approval* via the Ministry of Justice without getting a visa from the diplomatic mission.
 - * If Priority Entry (Business) Persons, who receive the approval from the Ministry of Justice, are not required to apply for K-ETA individually in K-ETA webpage and able to get the boarding pass without a visa.
- However, the process on COVID-19 related quarantine measures, such as presenting a negative COVID-19 (PCR) test result and applying

for the quarantine exemption request, remains unchanged and needs to be processed separately.

⑤ Sending the Official Letter

- Due date of sending the official letter and its content
 - The department in charge needs to send the official letter **5 days prior to the estimated date of arrival.**
 - The title of the official letter should be **'K-ETA for 'Priority Entry (Business) Persons'**. The department in charge needs to send the Excel form of 'Attachment 2' and the passport bio page to the attached document.
- Recipients
 - The department in charge needs to send the official letter to both Border Control Division of Ministry of Justice and Gimpo Airport Immigration Office
- Required documents
 - Application List (Attachment 2) and a photocopy of the passport bio page of the foreigner.

Appendix 1**K-ETA 「Priority Entry (Business) Persons」
allowed countries (91 countries)****1. Countries under visa waiver agreements**

Total of 56 countries	
Asia•Pacific (4 countries)	Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand
Americas (18 countries)	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay
Europe (29 countries)	Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey
Middle East (4 countries)	Israel, Morocco, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates
Africa (1 country)	Lesotho

2. Countries designated visa-free entry

Total of 35 countries	
Asia•Pacific (15 countries)	Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Hong Kong, Japan, Kiribati, Macau, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Taiwan, Tonga, Tuvalu
Americas (5 countries)	Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, Honduras, Paraguay,
Europe (5 countries)	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Montenegro, Serbia
Middle East (5 countries)	Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar
Africa (5 countries)	Botswana, Eswatini, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa

K-ETA Notice for Priority Entry (Business) Persons○ **Inviting Company in Korea**

- The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) of the Republic of Korea requests that the inviting company in Korea provide this notice to the invitee along with the MOJ official note and inform the invitee to carry the MOJ official note containing the K-ETA results upon entry to the Republic of Korea.

○ **Invitee (Foreign National) Scheduled to Enter**

- K-ETA approval does not guarantee your entry into the Republic of Korea. Final entry approval will be determined according to the entry immigration inspection carried out by the immigration officer.
- Upon entry immigration inspection, you must present the MOJ official note stating the K-ETA results.
- You will be allowed to enter the Republic of Korea one time, within the valid K-ETA period stated on the MOJ official note.
- Invitees (foreign nationals) who received K-ETA approval via MOJ official note do not have to apply for a K-ETA or visa.
- Kindly note that when the COVID-19 situation comes to an end and the suspension of visa-free entry is terminated, K-ETA required foreign nationals must apply for the K-ETA through the K-ETA website prior to their entry to the Republic of Korea.

*** Invitees are required to comply with COVID-19 related quarantine measures implemented by the Republic of Korea, such as presenting a negative COVID-19 (PCR) test result.**

*** Invitees seeking to obtain a Quarantine Exemption Certificate should apply for it separately.**