

ADMISSION OF PASSPORT / TRAVEL DOCUMENT HOLDERS FROM COUNTRIES WHO ARE EXEMPT FROM HAVING TO BE IN POSSESSION OF A VALID PORT OF ENTRY VISA

Passport / travel document holders from countries who are exempt from the South African visa requirement (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/passports_exempt_from_visas.doc) are exempted for a specific period and in respect of purposes for which a port of entry visa may be issued e.g. holiday, business meetings (see note below) and when in transit. A visitor's visa for the specific period of exemption may therefore be issued to such a foreigner at a South African port of entry e.g. international airport, provided that he or she is able to submit the following documentation to the immigration officer:

- a machine readable passport valid for no less than thirty (30) days after the foreigner's intended departure from the Republic of South Africa, and having at least **two (2)** blank pages for endorsements;
- a statement or documentation detailing the purpose and duration of the visit;
- a valid return air flight ticket or proof of reservation thereof;
- proof of sufficient financial means, which shall be in the form of a recently issued bank certified statement, for the last three (3) months;
- a residential address of the intended place of stay within the Republic of South Africa and the business, residential or physical address of his or her host in the Republic;
- documentation in respect of the admission and departure of minor children under the age of 18 (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/admission_children.doc); and
- a yellow fever vaccination certificate, if the foreigner travelled or intends travelling from or transiting through a yellow fever endemic area to the Republic of South Africa – **the certificate shall not be required where that person travelled or intends travelling in direct transit through such an area** (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Yellow_fever.doc).

Please note:

- A visitor's visa for the specific period of exemption may be issued at a South African port of entry to [passport / travel document holders who are exempt from the South African visa requirement](#) in respect of:
 - i. holiday
 - ii. business meetings (see also http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Business_meetings.doc)
 - iii. attending conferences, seminars or sports events
 - iv. a person, who is the spouse or dependent child of the holder of a valid visitor's visa, study visa, treaty visa, business visa, medical treatment visa, relative's visa, work visa, retired person visa or exchange visa
 - v. studies not exceeding three (3) months (see also http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Medical_elective.doc)
 - vi. medical treatment not exceeding three (3) months
 - vii. academic sabbaticals not exceeding three (3) months
 - viii. voluntary or charitable activities not exceeding three (3) months (applicants must be over the age of 18)
 - ix. research not exceeding three (3) months
- **Persons who intend conducting work in the Republic of South Africa, including, but not limited, to technicians, models, photo shoot and film crews, for a period not exceeding three (3) months must apply for [authorisation to conduct work in terms of section 11\(2\)](#).**
- Non-machine readable / handwritten and extended passports are not accepted for entry into the Republic of South Africa.

- *In terms of Immigration Regulation 11(5), a person, other than a resident from a country with which the Republic of South Africa shares a border (Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique), who is in possession of a visitor's visa issued on the basis of being exempt from South African visa control, shall upon his or her re-admission to the Republic, be admitted on the same visa, and where such visa has expired, may be admitted on a new visa valid for a period **not exceeding seven (7) days**: Provided that where that foreigner arrives at a port of entry **from his or her country of residence**, the new visa may be issued for a period not exceeding the period attached to the visa exemption.*
- *The Immigration Act, as amended, makes provisions for an application for a once-off renewal / extension of a visitor's visa for a further period, which shall not exceed three months – such application must be submitted in person via a VFS office **in the Republic of South Africa** (see <http://www.vfsglobal.com/dha/southafrica>) no less than 60 days prior to the expiry of his or her visa and if the visa was issued for less than 30 days, not later than 7 working days before the expiry of the visa. Please note that a South African foreign mission e.g. the Embassy in Berlin, may not guarantee the renewal / extension of a visitor's visa, as such decisions are taken solely by the officials in the country. **The foreigner / applicant must however ensure that he or she has received the extended visa i.e. the visa has been placed in his or her passport before departing from the Republic, in order not to be declared as an undesirable person due to an overstay.***