



home affairs

Department:
Home Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DHA-57

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DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

HEAD OFFICE

PROVINCIAL MANAGERS

DOMESTIC OFFICES

MISSIONS

VISA FACILITATION SERVICES GLOBAL

IMMIGRATION CIRCULAR NO 30 OF 2025: PUBLICATION OF TURNAROUND TIMES FOR VISA AND PERMIT RELATED SERVICES

The Chief Directorate: Permits has historically operated without formally defined turnaround times for its products and enabling documents. Previously, turnaround times were informally aligned with APP and AOP targets, despite these products not being explicitly included in those plans.

In the 2025/2026 cycle, new APP and AOP targets were approved, prompting a comprehensive review of all products, including those at the Business plan level. This review confirmed publicly known turnaround times but revealed a critical gap: the absence of visible turnaround time information, leading to applicant confusion and inconsistent communication.

To enhance transparency, build public trust, reduce inquiries, mitigate fraud risks, and support stakeholder engagement, the Chief Directorate resolved to document its services and confirm turnaround times make them available for the departments staff and public reference.

SERVICES REPORTED AT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	TURNAROUND TIME
VISAS	
Business Visa - Section 15	8 weeks
Critical Skills Visa - Section 19(4) incl. TES	4 weeks
General Work Visa - Section 19(2) incl. TES	8 weeks
Port of entry visa - Section 10 (TTOS)	5 days
Port of entry visa - Section 10 (Evisa)	10 days

Worker – Section 26(a)	8 months
Extra Ordinary Skills - Section 27(b)	8 months
Business - Section 27(c)	8 months

SERVICES REPORTED AT ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	TURNAROUND TIME
VISAS	
Visitor's Visa - Section 11(1)	60 days
Visitor's Visa - Section 11(2)	60 days
Exchange Visa - Section 22	60 days
Study Visa - Section 13	60 days
Medical Treatment - Section 17	60 days
Crew - Section 17	60 days
Visitor's Visa - Section 11(6)	120 days
Relative's Visa - Section 18	120 days
Retired Person Visa - Section 20	120 days
Treaty Visa - Section 14	120 days
PERMITS	
Spouse and dependants - Section 26 (b, c, d)	12 months
Extra Ordinary Skills - Spouse and dependants - Section 27 (b)	12 months
Business - Spouse and dependants - Section 27(c)	12 months
Quota worker - Section 27(a)	12 months
Refugee - Section 27(d)	12 months
Retired - Section 27(e)	12 months
Financially Independent - Section 27(f)	12 months
Relative - Section 27(g)	12 months
APPEALS	
Appeal section 8(4)	180 days
Appeal section 8(6)	240 days
WAIVERS AND EXEMPTIONS	
Visa waivers/exemptions	120 days
Permit waivers/exemptions	12 months

SERVICES REPORTED AT BUSINESS PLAN LEVEL

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	TURNAROUND TIME
RECTIFICATIONS	
Rectification Visas & Permits	30 days
TRANSFERS	
Visa Transfer	30 days

VERIFICATIONS	
Visa	40 days
Permit	90 days
PROOF OF PERMIT	
Proof of permit	90 days
WITHDRAWAL OF PERMIT	
Withdrawal of permit	90 days
CANCELLATION OF VISA	
Cancellation of visa	90 days

We encourage all applicants and stakeholders to consult the published turnaround times to better plan and manage their engagements with the department.


MR M MADUMISA
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: IMMIGRATION SERVICES
DATE:

02/12/2025

This Immigration Circular follows Immigration Directive no. 29 of 2025 which deals with: Amendments to 2025/26 annual performance plan for immigration law enforcement operations/ inspections.