

China optimizes entry/exit measures

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In brief

- From 8 January 2023, following the downgrading of COVID-19 pandemic to Category B, China has optimized her entry/exit measures to promote international exchange, including the removal of on-arrival PCR test and quarantine, and resuming visa issuance, renewal and re-issuance for inbound travelers.

Feedback



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In detail

On 26 December 2022, the central epidemic control body under the State Council announced the "Overall Policy Plan for COVID-19 under Category B Management" to implement and coordinate the prevention and control of COVID-19 infections, and economic and social development.

From 8 January 2023, the COVID-19 pandemic has been downgraded from Category A to Category B and thus the entry control measures will be loosened accordingly. The details of the new policies are summarized below.

	After 8 January 2023	By 8 January 2023
Entry/exit measures changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requiring inbound travelers to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test 48 hours before the departure and only those with negative results can come to China. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing the circuit breaker mechanism for inbound flights has been abolished from 11 November 2022. Adjusting the two-PCR-test requirement 48 hours before boarding to one test.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminating on-arrival PCR testing and quarantine. Admitting arrivals based on a normal health declaration. Conducting antigen testing by the Customs on those inbound travelers showing fever symptom or submitting abnormal health declarations. Suggesting self-isolation or self-care for travelers showing a positive test result and minor sickness but without serious disease with asymptomatic infection. Suggesting clinic treatments for other cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requiring "5-day central quarantine + 3-day home quarantine" for all inbound travelers. Requiring PCR testing on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5 days since the start of the central quarantine. Requiring PCR testing on the 1st and 3rd since the start of the home quarantine.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abolishing the red health coding practice for incoming personnel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coding inbound traveling based on the results of PCR testing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifting control measures for international passenger flights, including the "Five Ones" measures and seat limits. Continuing the pre-boarding disease prevention measures and on-board face masking practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing the "Five Ones" measures, i.e. an airline is limited to one route per country and one flight per week.

Some other entry/exit measures have also been optimized starting from 8 January 2023:

- Resuming ordinary passport applications for Chinese citizens for overseas tourism and visiting friends and relatives, and also a business endorsement for tourism and business trips.
- Resuming foreigners' applications for ordinary visa (extensions, renewals, re-issuance), for stayover documents (issuance, renewal and replacement), and for residence permits (issuance, extension, re-issuance and replacement).
- Optimizing the arrangements and visas applications for foreigners to visit China for work resumption, business, study, and family visits; opening up gradually waterways and land ports for passengers' entry/exit.
- Resuming visa issuance at ports; resuming the 24/72/144-hour visa-free transit policy and issuing temporary entry permits.
- Resuming Chinese citizens' outbound tourism based on priority arrangements.

WTS China's observation

Following the downgrading of the COVID-19 pandemic to Category B, China's entry and exit measures have been gradually liberalized, which is conducive to the movement of corporate dispatchers and business visitors to China.

In brief, the changes have brought about the following convenience:

- No more quarantine and on-arrival PCR testing;
- No more red coding for new arrivals;
- More international flights to resume; and
- Resumption of visa services.

Companies' management is advised to monitor the new changes and adjust their personnel mobility schedules for projects in China.

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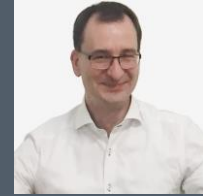
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