

ILPA information sheet

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Immigration Law Practitioners' Association www.ilpa.org.uk 020-7251 8383 (t) 020-7251 8384 (f)

Medical Examinations

4 July 2013

This information sheet explains who requires a medical examination and/or a certificate confirming they are free from active pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) when applying to enter (or return to) the United Kingdom¹ other than as a visitor seeking to enter or remain in the United Kingdom for private medical treatment².

General

A person will normally be referred for a medical examination if:

- s/he is applying to enter the United Kingdom and intends to remain in the United Kingdom for more than six months; or
- health or medical treatment is mentioned as a reason for his/her visit; or
- s/he appears not to be in good mental or physical health.

An entry clearance officer may refer any person for a medical examination although this discretion should be 'exercised sparingly'.

Where a medical examiner advises an entry clearance/immigration officer that the person is suffering from a specified disease or condition which may impact on his/her ability to support him/her self and dependents and/or require treatment, the entry clearance/immigration officer will consider this as a relevant factor in assessing whether the applicant has sufficient means to support him/herself whilst in the United Kingdom.

TB screening

Countries considered to have a high incidence of TB

A person **MUST** provide a medical certificate issued by a Home Office approved medical practitioner confirming that they have undergone screening for active pulmonary tuberculosis and it is not present, if they are applying to enter and intending to remain in the United Kingdom for more than six months or if they are applying to enter as a fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner or spouse/partner **and** if they are a national of one of the following countries³:

- Bangladesh
- Burkina Faso
- Cambodia

¹ Paragraphs 36 to 39 of the Immigration Rules

² Paragraphs 51 to 56 of the Immigration Rules

³ List at 21 June 2013

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/appendix/>

- Côte d'Ivoire
- Eritrea
- Ghana
- India
- Kenya
- Laos
- Lesotho
- Malaysia
- Nepal
- Niger
- Pakistan
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Thailand
- The Philippines
- Zimbabwe

From 1 July 2013 the following countries will be added to this list:

- China*
- Cameroon
- Ethiopia
- Gambia
- Hong Kong*
- Indonesia
- Macau*
- Malawi
- Morocco
- Sierra Leone
- Uganda

*The Home Office plans to extend the requirement for TB screening to applicants from China, Hong Kong and Macau. From 1 July 2013, the requirement for TB screening will be limited to applications for entry clearance for settlement although the Home Office intends to extend the requirement to entry clearance applicants in the Points Based System categories of the Immigration Rules later this year.

Children

Children aged eleven years and over are required to present a TB certificate showing that they are free from active pulmonary TB. Children aged under eleven years are not automatically exempt and will need to attend the (authorised/approved) clinic where their parent/guardian will complete a medical questionnaire. The (authorised/approved) clinician will assess and decide whether a child will need a certificate.

Returning Residents

UK residents returning to the UK are generally exempt from the requirement to present a TB certificate unless the returning resident has been away from the United Kingdom for more than two years and is returning from a country listed above. If this is the case s/he must also submit a certificate from an approved provider showing that they are free from pulmonary TB. However, a returning resident may not be refused entry on medical grounds.

EEA Family permit applicants

An applicant applying for an EEA family permit is not required to produce a certificate showing them free from active pulmonary TB as EEA family permits are valid for six months.