



The Westwood Organisation
Clear and concise immigration advice



UKVI TEMPORARY CHANGES TO RIGHT TO WORK CHECKING DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

UKVI have today announced changes to the way right to work checks can be conducted during the COVID-19 crisis. This is a temporary change. [This is the official announcement.](#)

Key Points:

- Checks can be carried out via video call, but you must have received a copy of the document by email or through a mobile phone app. You can then compare the holder with the original and the copy over a video call.
- Where necessary, the Employer Checking Service should continue to be used.
- It remains an offence to knowingly employ anyone who does not have the right to work in the UK.
- You MUST record the date of the check and annotate it “adjusted check undertaken on [insert date] due to COVID-19”.
- If the person holds a BRP or settled status under the EU settlement scheme, employers can use the online checking service whilst doing the video call – remember you need the applicant’s permission (and a share code) to do this.

These measures are temporary, and once the COVID-19 crisis is over, checks will return to normal. For those checks made during this time, you will need to go back and check the original document. In other words, you will be doing a retrospective check/confirmation:

- The retrospective check must be carried out within 8 weeks of the end of these measures.
- UKVI will advise when these measures are to end.
- If, at the point of the retrospective check, you find that the employee does not have permission to work, you must end employment.
- If, during the crisis, you make a full right to work check – i.e. face to face and according to the guidance – you will already have the statutory excuse in place and a retrospective check will not be necessary.

We are here to help you, so feel free to contact us with any questions, or for help with making checks.