

Restrictions when travelling to Germany

In this regard, as of **30 January** the German Government has introduced new measures to prevent the transmission of new mutants of COVID-19 from virus-variant countries (see attached Annex I – unfortunately only in German). More precisely, there will be a **ban on travel from virus-variant areas** (areas with a particularly high risk of infection due to the widespread occurrence of certain SARS-CoV-2 virus variants: **currently UK, Ireland, Portugal, South Africa and Brazil**).

In addition:

- The transport ban is directed at the carriers; public transport is also affected.
- It is not a ban on entry (e.g. private entry by car).
- The following in particular are excluded: empty, mail and freight transports, and those persons that are only changing planes in a transit area of a commercial airport in Germany.
- Transport of persons with residence / right of abode in DE is also exempt (visa not sufficient).
- Unfortunately, there will be **no exception for transport personnel**. The Ministry of Transport has lobbied hard for this, but the declared goal of stopping the entry of the virus variants obviously has priority for the moment.
- Since the ban in this regulation is not linked to residence, indirect entry should be still possible (e.g. PHL has a virus variant, RUS does not - PHL seafarer flies from Manila to Moscow and from there on to Hamburg).