



KENYA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION SERVICES
P.O BOX 30163- 00100
NAIROBI

AIC 11/26
White 308

Tel : +254794471825
E-mail: info@kcaa.or.ke
: ais@kcaa.or.ke
URL : http://www.kcaa.or.ke/

Publication Date: 09 OCT 2026

The following circular is hereby promulgated for information, guidance, and necessary action.

Nicholas Bodo
Ag. DIRECTOR GENERAL

Administrative

AIC

MANDATORY INBOUND TRAVEL HEALTH INSURANCE

1.0 Purpose and effective date

1.1 This Circular notifies all aircraft operators conducting scheduled and non-scheduled international passenger flights into Kenya of the mandatory inbound travel health insurance requirement and the associated passenger verification measures.

1.2 The requirement applies to arrivals into Kenya from 5th October 2026, irrespective of the date on which tickets were issued or travel arrangements were made. This Circular is issued on 9th October 2026 to communicate that requirement and the associated passenger verification measures to aircraft operators.

2.0 Legal basis and background

2.1 Section 26(6) of the Social Health Insurance Act, 2023 requires a non-Kenyan intending to enter and remain in Kenya for less than twelve months to possess travel health insurance cover as designated by the Cabinet Secretary for Health. Regulation 70 of the Social Health Insurance Regulations, 2024 gives effect to this requirement.

3.0 Applicability and exemptions

3.1 The requirement applies to non-Kenyan travellers entering Kenya for a stay of less than twelve months, subject to the exemptions below. Each non-exempt traveller, including a minor, must have individual valid cover.

3.2 The following categories are exempt:

- Kenyan citizens;
- Holders of valid residence status;
- Citizens of East African Community (EAC) Partner States;
- Persons seeking asylum;
- Holders of diplomatic, official and service passports;
- Members of crew of any ship, aircraft, train, vehicle or carrier, where they either hold valid health insurance cover provided by their employer or remain within the port of entry for the duration of their stay. Crew members relying on employer-provided cover should present proof of that cover on request; and
- Transit passengers who do not seek entry into Kenya.

3.3 Exemption from the Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) requirement does not, by itself, confer exemption from travel health insurance. Nationals of African countries outside the EAC who are exempt from eTA must comply unless they fall within another exempt category.

3.4 Travellers or tourists entering Kenya with refugee status are not exempt on that basis. Stateless persons are not exempt on that basis. Such travellers must obtain the mandatory inbound travel health insurance unless they qualify under another exemption in paragraph 3.2.

4.0 Policy benefits

4.1 Cumulative policy benefit limit of up to US\$50,000 comprising:

No.	Policy benefit	Insurable limit US\$
1	Medical expenses	20,000
2	Emergency medical transportation	25,000
3	Prescribed medicines	300
4	Mental illness	1,000
5	Repatriation of mortal remains	5,000

4.2 Mandatory inbound travel health insurance cover shall be obtained from local insurers approved and licensed under the Insurance Act, Cap. 487. Foreign travel health insurance is not accepted for compliance with this requirement, subject to the crew exemption in paragraph 3.2.

5.0 Obtaining cover

5.1 From 5th October 2026, applicants at <https://www.etakenya.go.ke> are prompted to purchase cover within the eTA application. An electronic policy document is issued once payment is confirmed on eCitizen.

5.2 All non-exempt travellers, including those who already hold foreign travel health insurance, must obtain the mandatory inbound travel health insurance cover from local insurers. There is no procedure for verifying or accepting foreign travel health insurance certificates for this requirement.

5.3 Purchase and payment enquiries relating to the eCitizen platform should be directed to eCitizen.

5.4 Immigration officers at the ports of entry shall verify cover using the Validator App, which confirms the existence, currency and category of cover.

5.5 A policy may be used for multiple entries into Kenya within its ninety (90) day validity period, provided the cover remains valid at the time of each entry. Upon expiry of the ninety (90) days, the traveller must obtain a new policy for any subsequent travel to Kenya.

6.0 Actions by aircraft operators

6.1 Operators are requested to take the following measures:

- Inform passengers at booking and before departure of the requirement, exemptions and available purchase channels.
- Request and verify documentary evidence of compliance at check-in before boarding for every non-exempt passenger, including passengers who do not require an eTA.
- Apply the exemptions correctly and check the documentation supporting a claimed exemption, referring doubtful cases to the immigration authorities for guidance.
- Advise non-exempt passengers without evidence of valid cover to obtain it online before departure.
- Remind passengers to retain proof of valid cover for presentation to immigration officers on arrival in Kenya.

6.2 Operators' checks support compliance before embarkation. Determination of admissibility and verification of compliance at the port of entry remain the responsibility of the immigration authorities.

7.0 Further information

7.1 Enquiries concerning entry requirements, exemptions and verification of mandatory inbound travel health insurance should be referred to the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services. Enquiries on purchasing cover and payments should be directed to eCitizen.

7.2 Travellers covered under the scheme who require medical care while in Kenya should contact the scheme administrator, Minet, quoting their policy number, through the following contacts:

- 24-hour helpline +254 719 044 777
- Pre-authorization or treatment approval: +254 719 044 777
- Cannot find your policy confirmation: +254 719 044 777
- Questions, complaints or concerns: +254 719 044 777 or inbound.travel@minet.co.ke