

# Saudi Arabia: Abolishment of the Yellow Band from the Nitaqat Program

Saudi Arabia: Abolishment of the Yellow Band from the Nitaqat Program

Title Saudi Arabia: Ministerial decision to abolish the Yellow band  
Date of conclusion 26 September 2019  
Entry into force 26 January 2020  
Text version(s) [English](#)  
Source Minister of Human Resources and Social Development,  
Issue No. 1/63717 (26 September 2019), accessed: 25 October 2022,  
<https://hrsd.gov.sa/en/decisions>  
Last accessed: 25 October 2022

Keywords Saudi; Laws & Regulations; Policy

## **Abstract**

The Minister of Human Resources and Social Development passed an order to abolish the yellow band of the Nitaqat Program. Under the Nitaqat program, companies in Saudi Arabia were required to hire a certain number of local individuals to reduce the state's unemployment rate. The companies are categorized based on their compliance with the Nitaqat program. The higher the compliance rate, the more foreign nationals a company can employ. The yellow band companies were near the bottom, which is red. Now, the companies in the yellow band will be moved to the red band, and they will not be able to issue more visas for foreign nationals or renew their work permit.