

Recent changes in Russian immigration laws

On March 20, 2011 the President of the Russian Federation signed an amendment to the laws governing several immigration procedures. Please find below a brief summary of the main changes introduced:

N 109-FZ "On immigration registration of foreign nationals and stateless individuals in the Russian Federation"

- ✓ Immigration registration can be completed both at the residency address of a foreign national as well as at the address of an employer.
- ✓ The time period in which a foreign national should register upon arrival has been extended from three to seven business days (excluding foreign nationals staying in hotels, resorts, hospitals, etc.).
- ✓ Highly qualified specialists (further HQS) who own residential property in Russia may act as an inviting party to their family members and arrange registration on their behalf.
- ✓ Highly qualified specialists and their family members are allowed to stay 90 days upon arrival without registration. After expiry of 90-day period this category of foreign nationals should register within 7 business days.
- ✓ The liability for violating immigration registration rules is no longer placed on foreign nationals. The hosting party shall bear responsibility in case of violation.

N 115-FZ "On the legal status of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation"

- ✓ Family members of HQS coming to Russia without visa can stay for the validity of a work permit issued for a highly qualified specialist. In other words, length of stay given to HQS and their family members depends on the terms stipulated in HQS work permit.
- ✓ Family members of HQS may work in Russia and may be granted a work permit in addition to those allotted by annual quota. Employers of HQS family members are not required to obtain employment permission in their regard.

The above amendments came into force on March 25, 2011.

Should you have any questions or need additional information with regards to immigration procedures in Russia please contact **TIM Services**, The Professional Immigration Agency.

This legal alert notifies clients of TIM Services and other parties concerned of legislative changes as may have a bearing upon operations and be of special interest. This legal alert is not a legal opinion proper, nor may it replace the need of legal consultation in any specific instance.

Contacts: Tatyana Dumnova
t.dumnova@timservices.ru
cell: +7.926.255.0872

Oksana Romanova
o.romanova@timservices.ru
cell: +7.926.535.4888

Elena Filippova
e.filippova@timservices.ru
cell: +7.926.527.2822

Marina Gordeeva
m.gordeeva@timservices.ru
cell: +7.926.629.9642