



Legal updates

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Dates of Novruz, Ramadan and Gurban holidays for 2019 have been announced



On 19 December 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan has announced the dates of Novruz, Ramadan and Gurban holidays for 2019, which shall be non-working days:

- i. March 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 - Novruz holidays;
- ii. June 5, 6 – Ramadan holidays; and
- iii. August 12, 13 – Gurban holidays.

The Production Calendar for 2019 has been approved

According to the Decision of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 25 December 2018, the standard working hours and production calendar for 2019 have been approved.

The following dates within 2019 have been determined as non-working days due to holidays:

- i. January 1, 2 – New Year;
- ii. March 8 – Women’s day;
- iii. March 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 - Novruz holidays;
- iv. May 9 - Victory Day on Fascism;
- v. May 28 - Republic Day;
- vi. June 5, 6 – Ramadan holidays;
- vii. June 15 - National Salvation Day of Azerbaijan;
- viii. June 26 - Day of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- ix. August 12, 13 – Gurban holidays;
- x. November 9 - Day of State Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- xi. December 31 - World Azerbaijanis Solidarity Day.

January 20 - National Day of Mourning has also been determined as a non-working day.

The living minimum for 2019 has been determined

According to the Law “On living minimum in the Republic of Azerbaijan” adopted on 21 December 2018 (“Law”), the amount of living minimum for 2019 in Azerbaijan have been determined as follows:

- i. AZN 180 within the country;
- ii. AZN 191 for employment capable population;
- iii. AZN 149 for pensioners; and
- iv. AZN 160 for children.

The Law enters into force on 1 January 2019.

New rules on “Green Corridor” have been approved

On 21 December 2018, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan approved the new Rules “On obtaining, suspension, termination and restoration of the rights of foreign trade participants on permanent use of the “Green Corridor” customs clearance system” (“New Rules”).

The New Rules become effective from 1 February 2019.

The New Rules have been prepared in accordance with the Rules “On Green Corridor and other customs clearance systems for goods and transportation means crossing the border” (“Rules on Green Corridor”).

"Green Corridor" is a customs clearance system, which allows release of goods and means of transport into the customs territory of Azerbaijan without their physical inspection.

Clearance of goods and means of transport through "Green Corridor" customs clearance system is carried out based on short import declaration to be submitted electronically with the customs authorities at least one hour before the goods cross the border.

The Rules on Green Corridor stipulate that importers will be categorized into high, medium and low risk groups in order to be able to apply the available customs clearance systems, including the "Green Corridor" customs system.

Only importers with low or medium (in certain cases) risk category will be eligible to benefit from "Green Corridor" customs clearance system.

By virtue of the New Rules, importers belonging to a low risk category and which meet all of the following requirements may obtain the right of permanent use of the "Green Corridor" system for import-export operations:

1. having experience on import operations within the last one year;
2. capable of using electronic services provided by the customs authorities or having an agreement with an authorized representative who has the ability to use such electronic services;
3. carrying out transportations using transportation means that meet international transportation standards;
4. using warehouses meeting the requirements established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
5. lacking criminal conviction on smuggling or avoidance of payment of customs duties or whose criminal conviction has been redeemed.

The right of permanent use of the "Green Corridor" customs clearance system grants its holders certain privileges within their import-export operations, such as, inter alia:

- i. faster clearance of goods and transportation means through the customs borders;
- ii. carrying out of customs clearance services by the customs authorities in priority order;
- iii. minimization of customs audits and physical inspections;
- iv. carrying out of customs examination of goods by customs authorities in priority order;
- v. based on the consent of customs authorities, carrying out of customs clearance of goods imported into the customs territory and exported from this territory by customs officers outside their workplaces and beyond their working hours;
- vi. direct transportation of the imported goods into warehouses designated by the importers; etc.

The New Rules further determine the procedure for suspension, termination and restoration of the right of permanent use of the "Green Corridor" customs clearance system.

New changes in the Code of Administrative Offences

On 10 December 2018, new changes were adopted to the Code of Administrative Offences. New offences aimed at restriction of use of tobacco products have been determined as follows:

- i. Pollution of environment with tobacco products waste – penalty of AZN 50 (fifty);
- ii. Attracting minors to smoking through buying, giving, offering or demanding tobacco products – penalty of AZN 100 (one hundred); and
- iii. Failure to prevent tobacco smoking at places prohibited by the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On restriction of use of tobacco products" (except for special places arranged for smoking tobacco) - for officials penalty of AZN 500 (five hundred), for legal entities – AZN 1,200 (one thousand two hundred).

New changes in excise stamp

According to the changes to the Code of Administrative Offences adopted on 20 December 2018, the article containing liability for selling, storing, removing from production building and cash purchase of products required to be labeled with excise stamps without such stamps has been abolished.

The change becomes effective as of 01 January 2019.



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