



LT In Focus

Changes to migration regulations for Turkish citizens

On 28 November 2015, the President of the Russian Federation issued Decree № 583 “On measures for the provision of national security in the Russian Federation and the protection of citizens of the Russian Federation from criminal and other unlawful acts and on the adoption of special economic measures towards the Republic of Turkey” (hereinafter – “Decree”), which was later amended by Decree № 669 of 28 December 2015.

The Decree made changes to the migration regulation concerning the employment procedure for citizens of the Republic of Turkey in Russia, and contains a number of restrictions and prohibitions on business activity of Turkish organizations in Russia.

This article analyses the changes to the migration regulations for Turkish citizens as a result of the new Decree.

Restrictions on the employment of Turkish citizens in Russia

According to the Decree, Russian companies cannot hire new Turkish employees, although Turkish citizens employed before 31 December 2015 can keep their jobs.

This restriction does not apply to companies on a list approved by the Russian Government on 29 December 2015 as part of Resolution № 1458. The List primarily includes construction companies and firms producing material for the construction industry, such as polymeric tubes and fitting pipes, plumbing equipment and floor coverings. Automotive manufacturers are also included on the List.

The Resolution does not offer the possibility or provide a mechanism for expanding the list to other companies.

Companies on the List may continue to employ Turkish citizens, but the number of Turkish employees a company has after 1 January 2016 may not exceed the number of Turkish citizens employed as of 31 December 2015.

Therefore, the employers, work/service customers which are not indicated in the List, are not allowed to engage/hire new Turkish citizens since 1 January 2016 while the employers, work/service customers, indicated in the List, shall keep the amount of employees (Turkish citizens) as of 31 December 2015.

Changes in the visa regime for Turkish citizens

The Decree also suspended the Agreement between the Russian Government and Government of Turkey on the terms of reciprocal travels of Russian and Turkish citizens dated 12 May 2010 (hereinafter – “Agreement”) with regard to the trips of Turkish citizens with regular international passports. Exceptions are made for the following categories of Turkish citizens:

- citizens with a Russian temporary residence permit or permanent resident card;
- citizens employed by Turkish diplomatic offices, branches and consulates in Russia; and
- citizens and members of their families with valid service passports or special passports.

Thus, a visa regime is introduced for all other Turkish citizens wishing to enter Russia for any purpose, including tourism and business travel.

The Decree supersedes the Agreement of 12 May 2010, which established a mutual visa-free regime between Russian and Turkey for continuous stays of 30 days limited to a total of 90 days in a 180-day period.

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We hope that you find this information in both interesting and useful. Our specialists are available to answer any questions you may have with regard to the contents of this issue.

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