



## New law clarifies rules governing foreigners' entry to, stay in, and departure from Russia

On 7 June 2017, [new legislation](#) took effect that amends two existing federal laws: Law [No. 114-FZ](#) of 15 August 1996 "On the procedure for departure from the Russian Federation and entry to the Russian Federation" and Law [No. 115-FZ](#) of 22 July 2002 "On the legal status of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation."

These amendments are intended to clarify the specific types of documents that foreign nationals must have to legally enter and stay in Russia.

In particular, the lawmakers have clarified the procedure for obtaining an ordinary four-month entry visa for the purpose of subsequently obtaining a temporary residency permit (known as an "**RVP**" after the Russian "*разрешение на временное проживание*" or "*razresheniye na vremennoye prozhivaniye*"), after which the RVP holder, or temporary resident, must apply for and obtain a long-term, multiple-entry visa.

It should be noted, however, that the requirement for RVP applicants to initially obtain an ordinary short-term visa, which they must then replace with the type of long-term visa intended for temporary residents, had already been established by law as regards foreign nationals entering Russia under the general visa regime.

But, immigration officials report that, in practice, there have been cases when RVP holders were living in Russia based on an expired ordinary visa, as they had falsely assumed that holding an RVP exempted them from the need to observe visa formalities. Whenever such visa violations are brought to light by the authorities, the violating foreign national holding an RVP is charged with an administrative offense.

Thus, in order to facilitate the correct interpretation of immigration law and minimize violations by foreign nationals of the rules governing their entry to, stay in, and departure from Russia, the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation ordered that clarifying amendments be made in the relevant regulations.

On a separate note, please be aware that, as before, foreign nationals with temporary residency permits in Russia must still obtain, in addition to their RVP, a long-term, multiple-entry Russian visa with the same term of validity as the RVP (unless otherwise stipulated by international treaties to which Russia is a signatory). However, please note that holders of **permanent** residency permits (in Russian "вид на жительство" or "vid na zhitelstvo") are exempt from the requirement to obtain a Russian visa.

We hope you will find this information timely and useful. Should you have any questions, please refer to your regular Deloitte contacts or to Deloitte Global Employer Services team.



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