



## **New procedure of immigration registration: latest comments from the Ministry of the Interior**

As we mentioned earlier, the bill developed to amend Federal Law No. FZ-109 of 18 July 2006 **“On immigration registration of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Russian Federation”** passed the first reading at the State Duma of the Russian Federation on 21 February.

The proposed amendments are primarily intended to change the registration procedure in such a way that all foreign nationals (irrespective of their status and regime of stay) are registered exclusively at the place of their actual stay/residence and an exact address is recorded, including the building and apartment. The owner of the residential property will be then considered the official host/inviting party, responsible for having the tenant duly registered with the immigration authorities.

Immigration registration at the employer’s address is allowed only “if [the foreign national] is residing at the organisation’s address or at the organisation’s premises <...> which he/she regularly uses “for rest and sleep”.

In March and early April, we participated in a number of events and meetings with the authorities, where the disputable points of the new legislation were discussed. Here are the most essential comments we received from the

immigration officials:

- In the opinion of Immigration Department of the Ministry of the Interior, which is in charge of residence permits and visa affairs, the bill will be enacted during the Duma's spring session and the new procedure will be launched in the summer. This also means that the new rules may partly apply to the special immigration registration procedure during the FIFA World Championship.

It is recommended to inform the landlords of foreign employees and their families of the upcoming changes.

- Immigration officials declare that the new rules should not be retrospective. In other words, if a foreign national holds a valid immigration registration issued using the employer's legal address at the moment the new rules come into force, he will not have to amend/replace it until his next arrival to Russia.
- It is expected that the bill in its latest version will enable the foreign nationals to act as an inviting/host party for immigration registration purposes. However, this will be allowed in respect of their family members or/and themselves only and provided they own residential property in Russia.
- Most likely, the employers will still be able to assist their foreign employees and their accompanying family members with completing the immigration registration process in certain cases, e.g., if the rent agreement is signed by employer/on its behalf and specifically states that the employer is authorised to take care of all registration-related paperwork, including the signing and filing of required applications.

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Deloitte's immigration team will keep you posted on how this bill progresses through the legislative process.



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