

June 19, 2014

Dear Sirs,

We would like to inform you of a significant change in Russian migration legislation concerning engagement of foreign nationals by representative offices of foreign legal entities.

According to the changes introduced in the Federal Law «On legal status of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation» and coming into force as of January 1, 2015, the representative offices of foreign legal entities duly accredited in the territory of the Russian Federation will be eligible to hire foreign nationals as highly qualified specialists. Previously only Russian commercial companies, scientific organizations, branches of foreign companies and some other categories of legal entities were able to engage foreign nationals as highly qualified specialists.

By way of reminder another simplified migration regime has been recently introduced which concerns foreign nationals sent for work by foreign commercial organizations incorporated in states – members of WTO in their Russian representative offices. However, along with other restrictions, this simplified procedure is applicable only for foreign employees assigned to hold senior executive positions in representative offices of such companies. Meanwhile, such restrictions do not apply to highly qualified specialists.

It shall be noted that engaging foreign nationals as highly qualified specialists requires payment of salary to them in the amount of not less than 2 millions rubles per year.

This change will open up new opportunities for engagement of foreign employees by representative offices of foreign companies which will provide favorable impact on the activity of representative offices of foreign legal entities in Russia.

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For more information please visit our web-site or contact directly **Irina Anyukhina**, Partner, Head of the Labour and Employment practice, ianyukhina@alrud.com.

Kind regards,

ALRUD Law firm

Note: All information was obtained from publicly available sources. The author of this information letter assumes no liability for the consequences of decision-making based on such information.