

June 9, 2014

Dear Sirs,

New migration law requirements related to foreign nationals applying for temporary residence permit, residence permit, work permit and patent have been recently adopted.

In accordance with the changes in question these categories of foreign nationals will be obliged to confirm their knowledge of Russian language, history of Russia and basics of Russian legislation. The following documents will be accepted as confirmation of the relevant knowledge:

- Official document on education issued by the educational organization operating in the territory of USSR before September 1, 1991 or in the territory of the Russian Federation after September 1, 1991;
- Certificate on knowledge of Russian language, history of Russia and basics of Russian legislation.

It seems that the majority of foreign nationals will need to obtain a relevant certificate. Such certificates will be issued by educational organizations operating in the territory of Russia as well as abroad and included in a special register. The activity of such educational organizations, procedure of holding relevant exams, requirements to the minimum level of knowledge and other issues will be governed by the special regulation (yet to be adopted).

The certificates issued by unauthorized educational organizations (i.e. those not included in the special register) will not be accepted as sufficient confirmation.

Certain categories of foreign nationals obtaining temporary residence permit and residence permit are exempted from this requirement. Among them males aged 65, females aged 60 and some other categories. Among those applying for work permit highly qualified specialists are exempted, as well as foreign nationals studying full time in Russian professional and higher education institutions.

Foreign nationals from visa - required countries will be obliged to submit to Federal Migration Service the confirmation within 30 business days upon obtaining the work permit. Otherwise, their work permits must be annulled.

These changes will come into effect as of January 1, 2015. Foreign nationals whose residence permit/work permit has been issued prior to this date will be also obliged to confirm their knowledge of Russian language, history of Russia and basics of Russian legislation in case of prolongation of these documents.

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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](mailto: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.*