



**THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**FEDERAL LAW**

**ON PROCEDURE FOR ENTRY TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND  
DEPARTURE FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
(EXTRACT)**

**(as amended by the Federal Laws No.110-Φ3 of July 18, 1998; No.118-Φ3 of June 24,  
1999, No.7-Φ3 of January 10, 2003;  
amendments made by the Federal Law No.7-Φ3 of January 10, 2003 come into force on  
April 15, 2003)**

Adopted by the State Duma  
on July 18, 1996

**Articles 1-23. Omitted.**

**CHAPTER IV. PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION AND ISSUANCE OF  
DOCUMENTS FOR ENTRY INTO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND  
DEPARTURE FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO FOREIGN CITIZENS AND  
STATELESS PERSONS**

**Article 24.** The foreign citizens can enter the Russian Federation and depart from The Russian Federation, if presenting visas and the valid documents of identity, recognized by the Russian Federation as such, except as otherwise provided by international agreements of the Russian Federation.

The stateless persons can enter the Russian Federation and depart from The Russian Federation, if presenting visas and valid documents of identity, issued by the appropriate authority of the state of their residence, and recognized by the Russian Federation as such, except as otherwise provided by international agreements of the Russian Federation.

The foreign citizens, who have obtained permanent residence permits in the Russian Federation, enter the Russian Federation and depart from the Russian Federation on the basis of the valid document of identity, recognized by the Russian Federation as such, and the permanent residence permit.

The stateless persons, who have obtained a permanent residence permit in the Russian Federation, enter the Russian Federation and depart from the Russian Federation on the basis of the permanent residence permit.

Foreign citizens and stateless persons may be denied entry into the Russian Federation and departure from the Russian Federation on the grounds, provided in this Federal law.

The foreign citizens and stateless persons, recognized in accordance with the procedure, provided by Federal law, on the territory of the Russian Federation as refugees, may depart from the Russian Federation and enter the Russian Federation on the basis of the travel document of refugee.

The foreign citizens and stateless persons, in respect of whom the decision on administrative expulsion or deportation from the Russian Federation is made, depart from The Russian Federation on the basis of the said decision.

**Article 25.** The grounds for issuance to the foreign citizen of the visa shall be:

1) invitation to enter the Russian Federation, which has been issued pursuant to Federal law in accordance with the procedure, determined by the Government the Russian Federation.

The invitation to enter the Russian Federation shall be issued by the federal executive authority in charge of foreign affairs upon application of:

a) federal public authorities;

б) diplomatic representatives and consular offices of foreign states in the Russian Federation;

в) international organizations and their agencies in the Russian Federation, and also agencies of foreign states at the international organizations located in the Russian Federation;

г) public authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

The invitation to enter the Russian Federation shall be issued by the federal executive authority in charge of internal affairs, in cases provided by Federal law.

The invitation to enter the Russian Federation shall be issued by a territorial body of the federal executive authority in charge of internal affairs upon application of:

a) local municipal bodies;

б) legal entities, which have by way of notification registered in the federal executive authority in charge of internal affairs, or its territorial body;

в) citizens of the Russian Federation and foreign citizens, residing permanently in the Russian Federation;

2) decision made by the federal executive authority in charge of foreign affairs, diplomatic representative or consular office of the Russian Federation, or agency of the federal executive authority in charge of foreign affairs, located within the border zone, including the crossing point of the State Border of the Russian Federation, upon application of the foreign citizen, located outside the Russian Federation, submitted in connection with the necessity of entry to the Russian Federation for emergency medical treatment or because of heavy illness or death of a close relative;

3) decision of the federal executive authority in charge of foreign affairs on the issuance to the foreign citizen of a visa, which was sent to a diplomatic representative or consular office of the Russian Federation;

4) decision of the head of diplomatic representative or consular office of the Russian Federation on the issuance to the foreign citizen of the visa, made in exceptional circumstances upon application in writing by the foreign citizen;

5) decision of a territorial body of the federal executive authority in charge of internal affairs upon the issuance to a foreign citizen of a temporary residence permit;

- 6) contract to provide tourist services and confirmation about reception of the foreign tourist by the organization, which is providing tourist services;
- 7) decision of the federal executive authority in charge of internal affairs, or its territorial body about recognition of the foreign citizen or stateless person as a refugee upon application, submitted by the foreign citizen or stateless person to a diplomatic representative or consular office of the Russian Federation.

**Article 25.1.** Depending on the purpose of entry of the foreign citizen into the Russian Federation and purpose of his stay in the Russian Federation, the visa issued to the foreign citizen shall be diplomatic, official, ordinary, transit, or the visa of temporary residing person. The visa - permission, issued by an authorized state body, to enter the Russian Federation and transit passage through territory of the Russian Federation, when holding a valid document of identity of foreign citizen or stateless person, which is recognized as such by the Russian Federation.

The visa shall contain the following information: surname, name (written in the letters of the Russian and Latin alphabets), date of birth, sex, citizenship, number of the document of identity of foreign citizen or stateless person, date of issue of the visa, authorised period of stay in the Russian Federation, number of an invitation to enter the Russian Federation or decision of a state body, duration of the visa, purpose of trip, data about an inviting organization (inviting natural person), number of trips allowed.

The visa shall be issued by the diplomatic representative, consular office of the Russian Federation, the federal executive authority in charge of foreign affairs, its agency in territory of the Russian Federation, including at the crossing point of the State Border of the Russian Federation, and also the federal executive authority in charge of internal affairs, or its territorial body.

The form of visa, the procedure and conditions for visa application and issuance, extension of duration, recovery in case of loss, and procedure for revocation of visas shall be determined in accordance with this Federal law by the Government of the Russian Federation

**Article 25.2.** The visa shall be single, double or multiple.

The single visa entitles the foreign citizen to cross the State Border of the Russian Federation once upon entry to the Russian Federation and once upon departure from the Russian Federation.

The double visa entitles the foreign citizen to double entry to the Russian Federation.

The multiple visa entitles the foreign citizen to numerous (more than two times) entry into the Russian Federation.

**Article 25.3.** The duration of visa can be extended during stay of the foreign citizen in the Russian Federation by:

- 1) federal executive authority in charge of internal affairs, or its territorial body upon application in writing by a foreign citizen, or public authority, local municipal body, or legal entity;
- 2) federal executive authority in charge of foreign affairs, upon the application in writing by an agency of foreign relations (foreign affairs) of foreign state, diplomatic representative or consular office of foreign state in the Russian Federation or agencies of an international organization in the Russian Federation (verbal note);
- 3) agency of the federal executive authority in charge of foreign affairs, located within the border zone, including at the crossing point of the State Border of the Russian Federation,

upon application in writing by a foreign citizen, or upon request in writing by a public authority, local municipal body or legal entity, or upon application in writing by a diplomatic representative or consular office of foreign state in the Russian Federation or agencies of an international organization in the Russian Federation (verbal note);

4) border control agencies in accordance with Federal law.

**Article 25.4.** The diplomatic visa shall be issued to the foreign citizen who is in possession of a diplomatic passport.

The diplomatic visa shall be issued to:

1) heads of foreign states, heads of governments of foreign states, members of foreign official delegations, members of families of the said persons travelling with them, and persons, attending them, for the term of up to three months;

2) diplomatic agents of diplomatic representatives and consular officials of consular offices, employees of agencies of international organizations in the Russian Federation, in respect to whom the diplomatic status is recognised by the Russian Federation, members of families of the said persons for the term of up to three months;

3) foreign diplomatic and consular couriers for the term of official trip.

In case the Russian Federation recognises the diplomatic status in respect of a foreign citizen not in possession of diplomatic passport, the diplomatic visa shall be issued to the said citizen.

In case the Russian Federation does not recognise the diplomatic status in respect of a foreign citizen who is in possession of the diplomatic passport, the ordinary visa shall be issued to the said citizen.

**Article 25.5.** The official visa shall be issued to the foreign citizen who is in possession of an official passport.

The official visa shall be issued to:

1) members of official foreign delegacies, members of families of the said persons travelling with them, and persons, attending them, for the term of up to three months;

2) members of staff of diplomatic representatives, consular offices of foreign states in the Russian Federation, agencies of international organizations in the Russian Federation and members of families of the said persons for the term of up to three months;

3) servicemen of the armed forces of foreign states and members of families of the said persons for the term of up to one year.

In case the Russian Federation recognises the official status in respect of a foreign citizen not in possession of official passport, the official visa shall be issued to the said citizen.

In case the Russian Federation does not recognise the official status in respect of a foreign citizen who is in possession of the official passport, the ordinary visa shall be issued to the said citizen.

**Article 25.6.** Depending on the purpose of entry of the foreign citizen into the Russian Federation and purpose of his stay in the Russian Federation, the ordinary visas shall be private, business, tourist, educational, working, humanitarian, and visas to enter the Russian Federation as a refugee.

The ordinary private visa shall be issued for the term of up to three months to the foreign citizen, entering into the Russian Federation as a private guest, on the basis of an invitation to enter the Russian Federation issued upon request of a citizen of the Russian Federation, or a foreign citizen who was previously granted a permanent residence permit in the Russian Federation, or a legal entity.

The ordinary business visa shall be issued for the term of up to one year to the foreign citizen, entering into the Russian Federation for the purpose of business trips.

The ordinary tourist visa shall be issued for the term of up to one month to the foreign citizen, entering into the Russian Federation as a tourist, if presenting a duly evidenced contract to provide tourist services and a confirmation about reception by the organization, providing tourist services.

The ordinary tourist group visa shall be issued for the term of up to one month to the foreign citizen, entering into the Russian Federation as a tourist, being a member of an organized tourist group (not less than five persons), if presenting a duly evidenced contract to provide tourist services and a confirmation about reception by the organization, providing tourist services.

The ordinary educational visa shall be issued for the term of up to one year to the foreign citizen, entering into the Russian Federation for the purpose of studying in an educational establishment.

The ordinary working visa shall be issued to the foreign citizen, entering into the Russian Federation for the purposes of labour, for the duration of an employment contract, but no more than for one year.

The ordinary humanitarian visa shall be issued for the term of up to one year to the foreign citizen, entering into the Russian Federation for the purposes of scientific, cultural, political, sport, or religious communications and contacts, or pilgrimage, or charity, or provision of humanitarian aid.

The ordinary visa to enter the Russian Federation as a refugee shall be issued to the foreign citizen for the term of up to three months, if presenting a decision of the federal executive authority in charge of internal affairs on the recognition of the said foreign citizen as a refugee on the territory of the Russian Federation.

**Article 25.7.** The transit visa shall be issued for the term of up to ten days to the foreign citizen for the purpose of transit passage through the territory of the Russian Federation in accordance with this Federal law.

**Article 25.8.** The visa of temporary residing person shall be issued for the period of four months to the foreign citizen, who has been granted entry into the Russian Federation for temporary residence, within the limits of the quota on issuance of the temporary residence permits, the procedure of setting which is determined by the Government of the Russian Federation, or outside the said limits. In case the foreign citizen was unable to enter the Russian Federation within the specified period, but the grounds for obtaining such visa by him still exist, the said foreign citizen on his application in writing may be issued a new visa of temporary residing person, valid within two months from the date of its issuance.

If the temporary residence permit of foreign citizen in the Russian Federation is not obtained for the reasons not dependent on the foreign citizen, the duration of the visa of temporary residing person shall be extended upon his application.

When the foreign citizen has obtained the temporary residence permit in the Russian Federation, the territorial body of the federal authority in charge of internal affairs, shall extend the visa of temporary residing person for the duration of the said permit.

**Article 25.9.** The foreign citizen or stateless person upon entry to the Russian Federation must receive and fill in a migration card. The migration card must be surrendered (returned) at

the crossing point of the State Border of the Russian Federation upon departure of the foreign citizen or stateless person from the Russian Federation.

The form of the migration card, the procedure of its use and the procedure of financing measures to provide migration cards shall be determined by the Government of the Russian Federation.

**Article 25.10.** The foreign citizen or stateless person, who has entered the territory of the Russian Federation in violation of the provided rules, or not in possession of the documents, evidencing their right to stay (reside) in the Russian Federation, or who has lost such documents and has not applied to a territorial body of the federal executive authority in charge of internal affairs, or who are evading departure from The Russian Federation after expiration of the period of stay (residence) in the Russian Federation, and also who has violated rules of transit passage through the territory of the Russian Federation, is considered to stay illegally on the territory of the Russian Federation and shall be held liable in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Natural persons and legal entities encouraging a foreign citizen or stateless person in his illegal entry into the Russian Federation, illegal departure from the Russian Federation, illegal transit passage through the territory of the Russian Federation and illegal stay (residence) in the Russian Federation, and also transport or other organizations that in performing international carriage have carried into the Russian Federation a foreign citizen or stateless persons, who possesses incorrectly issued documents or does not possess designated documents evidencing the right of entry into the Russian Federation, shall be held liable in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

The foreign citizen or stateless person illegally staying on the territory of the Russian Federation, or person, to whom the entry into the Russian Federation has not been granted, and also in case stay (residence) of the foreign citizen or stateless person lawfully staying in The Russian Federation, creates a real threat to defence capability or security of the state, or public order, or health of the population, for the purposes of protection of constitutional foundations, morals, rights and lawful interests of other persons, may be subjected to the decision on undesirability of stay (residence) of the said foreign citizen or stateless person in the Russian Federation. The procedure of making the decision on undesirability of stay (residence) of the foreign citizen or stateless person in the Russian Federation and list of the federal executive authorities empowered to make such decisions, shall be determined by the Government of the Russian Federation.

The foreign citizen or stateless person, in respect of whom the decision on undesirability of stay (residence) in the Russian Federation has been made, must depart from the Russian Federation in accordance with the procedure, provided by Federal law.

The foreign citizen or stateless person, who has not left the territory of the Russian Federation within the specified period, shall be subject to deportation.

The deportation of the foreign citizen or stateless person, in respect of whom the decision on undesirability of stay (residence) in the Russian Federation has been made shall be executed by the federal executive authority in charge of internal affairs, or its territorial body.

The decision on undesirability of stay (residence) of the foreign citizen or stateless person in The Russian Federation shall be the ground for the subsequent denial of entry into the Russian Federation.

## **CHAPTER V. ENTRY INTO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND DEPARTURE FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION OF FOREIGN CITIZENS AND STATELESS PERSONS**

**Article 25.11.** The foreign citizens, being the passengers of cruise ships, authorised to carry passengers and arriving in the Russian Federation through sea or river ports open for the international passenger carriage, can stay on the territory of the Russian Federation for 72 hours without a visa, in accordance with the procedure, determined by the Government the Russian Federation.

**Article 26.** The entry into the Russian Federation may be denied to the foreign citizen or stateless person in case the foreign citizen or stateless person:

- 1) at the crossing point of the State Border of the Russian Federation has violated the rules of crossing of the State Border of the Russian Federation, customs rules, sanitary standards, - until the violation is eliminated;
- 2) used false documents or provided false information about themselves or the purpose of their stay in the Russian Federation;
- 3) has non-cancelled or non-rehabilitated conviction for committing of an intentional crime in the territory of the Russian Federation or overseas, recognized as such in accordance with Federal law;
- 4) two and more times within three years was subjected to the administrative liability in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation for committing an administrative offence in the territory of the Russian Federation;
- 5) during the previous stay in the Russian Federation has not surrendered a migration card upon departure from the Russian Federation;
- 6) during the previous stay in the Russian Federation has evaded a payment of the tax or administrative penalty or expenses of an administrative expulsion or deportation from the Russian Federation, - until the appropriate payment is made in full.

**Article 27.** The entry into the Russian Federation shall be denied to the foreign citizen or stateless person in case:

- 1) it is necessary for the purposes of defence capability or security of the state, or public order, or protection of health of the population;
- 2) during the previous stay in the Russian Federation the foreign citizen or stateless person was subjected to administrative expulsion or deportation from the Russian Federation, - until five years from the date of administrative expulsion or deportation from the Russian Federation;
- 3) The foreign citizen or stateless person has non-cancelled or non-rehabilitated conviction for committing grave or extremely grave crimes in the territory of the Russian Federation or overseas, recognized as such in accordance with Federal law;
- 4) the foreign citizen or stateless person has not submitted the documents necessary for obtaining a visa in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, - until the submission;
- 5) the foreign citizen or stateless person has not presented a policy of medical insurance, valid in the territory of the Russian Federation, - until the presentation, except (on the basis of reciprocity) the employees of diplomatic representatives and consular offices of foreign states, employees of the international organizations, members of families of the said persons and other categories of foreign citizens;

6) at the moment of application for visa or at the crossing point of the State Border of the Russian Federation the foreign citizen or stateless person was unable to prove the existence of the means for subsistence in the territory of the Russian Federation and for subsequent departure from the Russian Federation, or present guarantees thereof in accordance with the procedure, determined by the Government of the Russian Federation;

7) a decision on undesirability of stay (residence) in the Russian Federation is made in respect of the foreign citizen or stateless person.

If the entry into the Russian Federation of foreign citizen or stateless person is restricted on the grounds provided in the subparagraphs (2) and (5) of part one of this article, border control agencies and federal executive authority in charge of internal affairs, or its territorial body in cases determined by the Government The Russian Federation, shall make the appropriate mark in a document of identity of foreign citizen or stateless person.

**Article 28.** The departure from the Russian Federation of the foreign citizens or stateless persons may be restricted if they:

1) are detained in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation on suspicion of committing a crime or are charged, - until the case is decided or a verdict of the court comes into legal force;

2) are convicted for committing a crime in the territory of the Russian Federation, - until the completion of sentence (execution of punishment) or release from punishment;

3) are evading the performance of obligations imposed on them by the court, - until the performance of obligations or settlement by the consent of the parties;

4) have not performed the obligation to pay taxes, imposed by the legislation of the Russian Federation, - until performance of these obligations;

5) were subjected to the administrative liability in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation for committing an administrative offence in the territory of the Russian Federation, - until the execution of punishment or release from punishment.

## **CHAPTER VI. PROCEDURE OF TRANSIT PASSAGE OF FOREIGN CITIZENS AND STATELESS PERSONS THROUGH THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**Article 29.** The transit passage through the territory of the Russian Federation shall be done, as a rule, without the right to stop.

The transit passage through the territory of the Russian Federation of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the state of destination by all types of transport is authorized on presentation of the transit visa, the visa to enter the next state on the route or the visa of the state of destination, and the travel tickets, valid for departure from the Russian Federation, or the confirmed guarantee of acquiring them at the point of transfer in the territory of the Russian Federation.

The transit visa is not required for the foreign citizen in case of transit passage of this foreign citizen through the territory of the Russian Federation using non-stop transport highways, in accordance with the list and the procedure, determined by the Government of the Russian Federation.

**Article 30.** The visa with the right to stop in the territory of the Russian Federation can be issued to foreign citizens or stateless persons after presentation by them of the motivated



request and documents proving the necessity of stoppage, except as otherwise provided by international agreement of the Russian Federation.

**Article 31.** The transit passage through the territory of the Russian Federation without visa is permitted to the foreign citizen or stateless person, if they:

- 1) travel by air transport through the territory of the Russian Federation without transfers;
- 2) travel on the plane of an international airline with a transfer at an airport in the territory of the Russian Federation, and possess the properly issued documents on the right of entry to the state of destination, and the air ticket with confirmed date of departure from the airport of transfer in the territory of the Russian Federation within 24 hours upon arrival, except for cases of an emergency stop;
- 3) reside on the territory of the state, with which the Russian Federation has a relevant international agreement.

**Article 32.** The emergency stop is the stay for more than 24 hours within a residence location, due to the following circumstances:

- 1) natural disasters, delaying the passage of train, vehicle, vessel or plane;
- 2) necessity to repair the relevant vehicle, which has been broken because of damage to any of its parts, or because of a traffic incident;
- 3) illness, if a doctor concludes that travelling further is dangerous to life and health of the sick person;
- 4) unforeseen delays of transfer from one type of transport to another at the point of transfer.

In case of an emergency stop, registration of stay in the territory of the Russian Federation and the extension of duration of a transit visa are performed by an internal affairs agency in a place of an emergency stop upon application of foreign citizens or stateless persons.

**Articles 33-35.** *Repealed.*

**Articles 36-40.** *Omitted.*

**President of the Russian Federation  
B. Eltsin**

**Moscow, Kremlin  
15 August 1996  
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