

Changes in the Rules for Migration Registration of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation

On 27 June 2018, the President of the Russian Federation signed Federal Law No. 163-FZ, which will take effect on 8 July 2018 and will significantly impact the migration registration procedures for foreign visitors.

It has been common practice for employers to register their foreign employees and guests at their local office, rather than their actual place of residence. The new law prohibits this practice and the registration of other foreign guests by the employer/host with migration authorities throughout the Russian Federation. The only exception is if a foreign citizen actually resides at the address of their employer. If this is the case, the employer/host may register such foreign guests on their behalf. Prior migration registration rules will remain in effect, namely that lessors, hotels or other persons providing accommodations may register foreign citizens residing at their premises.

This new limitation places the burden on individual foreign nationals to ensure that they are properly registered with the migration authorities, which they must do within **seven calendar days** (three calendar days during the hosting of the FIFA World Cup) of crossing the border. In practical terms, foreign employees and guests not staying at hotels may encounter difficulties in complying as it will require the cooperation of landlords or other providers of temporary housing. Further, foreign nationals that own property may also encounter compliance hurdles.

We are prepared to assist you with registration instructions or in any other way we can. We will continue to keep you informed of any updates or details pertaining to this law that could potentially affect you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding this or any other matter.

This alert is intended only to provide a general overview of the issues covered. For more information, please contact Anastasia Melnikova.

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