

On April 18, 2020, Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 274 "On temporary measures to regulate the legal status of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Russian Federation due to the threat of further spread of a new coronavirus infection (COVID-19)" came into force. The decree introduced long-awaited measures to temporarily freeze period of migration and extend the validity of certain migration documents.

You can find below frequently asked questions to clarify the Decree.

### **1. How long are temporary measures introduced?**

The measures listed in the presidential Decree are valid until June 15, 2020. Until this time, all terms are extended or frozen under migration legislation, and the stay of foreigners who have legally entered the territory of Russia is recognized as legal.

### **2. What happens if a foreign citizen was legally on the territory of Russia and their stay has expired?**

In the period from March 15 to June 15, 2020 inclusive: in relation to foreign citizens and stateless persons no decisions are made on the undesirability of their stay (residence), administrative expulsion from the Russian Federation, deportation or transfer to a foreign state in accordance with the international Treaty of the Russian Federation on readmission. Migrant workers whose stay in the country was legal on March 15 of the current year can freely stay on the territory of the Russian Federation and carry out labor activities until June 15. During this time, the duration of their stay will not be taken into account. According to the Presidential Decree, no decisions will be made in respect of foreigners regarding the obligation to leave the Russian Federation until June 15.

### **3. What about registration at the place of temporary residence?**

If a foreign citizen has already been registered at the place of temporary residence and the registration period expires from March 15 to June 15, 2020, such a citizen has the right to renew the registration after June 15, 2020.

If a foreign citizen has the status of a highly qualified specialist and must register within the specified period, since he / she has been in Russia for more than 90 days, then the registration obligation will also arise after June 15, 2020.

### **4. Will the validity of previously issued visas, residence permits, and state program participant certificates be canceled?**

The validity of visas for foreign citizens in the Russian Federation will be extended until June 15, 2020. Depending on the situation, visa extensions, transit visas for departure to a permanent place of residence and other cases will be carried out until June 15, from the date when documents are received by the migration authorities.

### **5. What would happen if a foreign citizen or a stateless person, being the participant of the state program has TRP, residence permit, or participant of other state programs, but were not able to extend their status, or is located outside the Russian Federation for more than 6 months?**

They still remain in the program, even if they have been outside Russia for more than six months. Due to the fact that the transport connection with countries is currently suspended, the period from March 15 to June 15 will not be taken into account for them either.

Until June 15, foreigners will not be deprived of their refugee status and temporary asylum.

June 16, 2020 will be considered the day after which administrative responsibility for violation of migration rules will enter into force.

#### **6. Will documents that have expired be considered valid?**

Documents that expire during the specified period:

- visa,
  - temporary residence permit,
  - residence permit,
  - migration card with expired marks,
  - refugee certificate,
  - consideration certificate of the application for refugee status on the territory of the Russian Federation,
  - certificate of temporary asylum on the territory of the Russian Federation,
  - state program participant certificate,
  - work permit,
  - patent,
  - permission to employ and use foreign workers,
- are recognized valid through June 15, 2020 inclusive.

#### **7. Are employers allowed to employ foreign citizens legally residing in the Russian Federation who do not have valid work permits or patents to work?**

From March 15 to June 15 of the current year, employers who observe the necessary sanitary and epidemiological measures will be able to hire both migrants who arrived in Russia on a visa but did not receive a work permit, and migrants “who arrived in the Russian Federation in a manner that does not require a visa and without patents” (if employers and customers have works (services) with permission to employ and use foreign workers), foreign citizens and stateless persons who arrived in the Russian Federation in a manner that does not require a visa, and do not have patents.

#### **8. When does the Decree come into force?**

The Decree comes into force from the date of its signing, i.e. from April 18, 2020.