

EY Serbia C19 Response - Immigration Alert

Changes in the application process for obtaining the immigration permits in Serbia due to the COVID - 19

March 2020

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, there have been certain changes in the way that the immigration authorities will operate in the upcoming period. Hence, the below you may find our comments on main topics relating to the immigration process during the period of a state of emergency.

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Is there a change in the immigration process due to the COVID-19 situation?

Yes, the immigration authority in charge for issuing residence permits has temporarily seized their activities, while the immigration authority in charge for issuing work permits changed its practice when it comes to applying for a work permit.

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What is the current process for applying for the work permit?

There is a possibility to electronically submit application, via email or by registered mail.

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Are there any indications that the immigration authority for issuing residence permit will also adapt their processes to the current situation?

We expect to receive the position of the immigration authority in charge for issuing residence permits regarding the application and extension procedure and we believe the immigration authority will also allow the possibility of submission of the application by registered mail.



As there it is not possible to regulate immigration requirements at this point, what should be foreigner's next steps?

The Serbian government adopted decision that all foreigners who were legally reside in Serbia at the time of the declaration of a state of emergency, whether through valid residence permits, visas or passports may continue to reside in Serbia even after the expiration of their residence permits, visas or after expiration of the prescribed threshold of days for stay just based on a passport until the end of the state of emergency.



What if foreigner leaves/left Serbia?

The Serbian government has temporarily closed their borders for entry into Serbia to all foreign nationalities. Also, airports in Serbia temporarily cancelled all commercial flights (to and from Serbia).

Having this in view, we would like to point that all foreigners who are planning to leave Serbia or who are abroad will not be able to enter Serbia again until further notice.



How EY can assist you with immigration services during the state of emergency?

EY closely monitors on a daily basis all developments regarding the immigration system and functioning in these extraordinary circumstances.

Also, EY can provide all immigration support to the clients, both with advisory and compliance, as well as provide a detailed plan of current cases related to immigration issues during this challenging time.

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