

New work permit rules

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Effective 1 January 2017 new rules and procedures on application and extension of work permits for expatriate employees, and on inter-corporate transfer will come into force.

New rules introduce the following key changes to the regime:

- The application process will be reduced to 7 business days from submission of the application. Currently, the work permit application process takes at least one month.
- The employer will be required to pay state fees (from approx. USD 800- 1,500 equivalent) for applications/ extension of existing work permits for expatriate employees.
- Employers will no longer be required to provide to the labour authorities a copy of the deposit agreement and bank account statements showing monetary deposit, guaranteeing costs of departure of expatriate employees from Kazakhstan.
- The ratio of expatriate personnel in management and specialist categories coming to Kazakhstan under an inter-corporate transfer arrangement should not exceed 50% of the number of local employees engaged in the same categories. Under current regulations no ratio exists for such specialists.

Expatriate individuals having higher educational qualifications for employment in priority sectors will be able to receive permission to work in Kazakhstan without application by a sponsoring host company. The application for permission for such individuals will be covered by separate immigration rules.

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