



Rules for setting work permits quotas in Kazakhstan

On 16 September 2020, the government amended Resolution No. 802 dated 15 December 2016 approving the Rules for setting Kazakhstan Work Permit Quotas and allocating Permits among the Regions, and identifying Persons whose Positions do not require a Work Permit (“Rules”).

Below are the most significant changes.

Work permit quotas for foreign nationals no longer depend on the type of economic activity involved. They include quotas based on permits issued by local executive authorities to employers. If previously quotas were set depending on the type of activity, i.e. the percentage of

foreign nationals in a particular activity could not be higher than the established limit, then, with the changes, the percentage should not exceed the total quota for Kazakhstan, which is 0.32% for 2020.

The deadline for employers to apply for work permits for foreign nationals has changed to 1 October.

Local executive authorities have until 10 October to collate and submit them to the Commission for it to set the work permit by 15 October. Under the old procedure, applications were accepted until 1 August and collated by local executive bodies by 10 August.

Quotas are now set by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, which is responsible for employment issues.

If earlier the Ministry submitted draft resolution to the Government by 1 December for their adoption, the Ministry now sets work permit quotas itself for foreign nationals by 1 January and allocates them among the regions, national-level cities and Nur-Sultan, the capital.

The changes come into force on 4 October 2020.

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