



Amendments to the Foreigners Act in Bulgaria

Recent amendments to the Foreigners Act in Bulgaria enforced as of 1 July 2025



The recent amendments to the Foreigners Act in Bulgaria enforced as of 1 July 2025 aim to ease business operations and attract highly skilled workers and investors. The changes are based on the transposition of European directives, specifically:

- **Directive 2014/36/EU** – Pertains to seasonal workers, providing ease in stay duration and permission procedures.
- **Directive (EU) 2021/1883** – Concerns highly qualified employment, emphasizing flexibility via the EU Blue Card.

Key Points and Facilitation:

EU Blue Card:

- **Flexibility in Changing Employers:** After the first 12 months, holders can change their position without new authorization.
- **Short-term Mobility:** Holders of a card from another EU country can work in Bulgaria for up to 90 days without additional formalities.
- **Extended deadline** for submitting visa documents: 30 days

Seasonal Workers:

Rapid Permit Procedure: Permits are issued within 5 working days if they have worked in Bulgaria in the last 5 years.

Address Registration:

Easements: Proof of address can be provided after arrival.

Medical insurance:

Short-term validity: with a period of at least three months or until the issuance of the long-term residence and work permit "EU Blue Card".

Digital Nomads:

New Regime: Residence permit up to 1 year with specific income requirements and work conditions.

Electronic Submission:

Modernization: Option for electronic submission of applications, accelerating administrative service.

Statutory health insurance will be also:

Foreign citizens, holders of a "Single Residence and Work Permit"

Penalties:

Fines for non-compliance with new rules: up to BGN 500 for foreigners and up to BGN 2500 for employers.

These new elements are critical for improving conditions for foreigners and facilitating business in Bulgaria, while maintaining control over immigration processes. It is crucial for employers to familiarize themselves with the new requirements for compliance and effective management of foreign personnel.

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