

Uzbekistan: Regulations on Entry to and Exit for Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons

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I. General Provisions.

1. In accordance with the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan foreign citizens and stateless persons (hereafter foreign citizens) can enter the Republic of Uzbekistan and exit it for private and business purposes, as tourists, for recreation, education, treatment and permanent residence.
2. Visas for entry to the Republic of Uzbekistan (entry, entry-exit, transit) for foreign citizens are issued by:
 - a) Consular institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad, in case they are not available, by consular institutions of other states, with which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan has bilateral agreements.
 - b) Consular bureaus of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan at airports receiving flights from foreign countries.

Consular institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad are as follows: consular departments of Embassies, general consulates, consulates, vice-consulates, consular agencies.

Visas for entry to the Republic of Uzbekistan are issued to foreign citizens for a period up to one year or for a period of their accreditation.

3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its territorial departments issue exit visas as well as extend their validity for exit from the Republic of Uzbekistan (exit, exit-entry) for the following categories of citizens:

- a) members of the diplomatic corps including their family members, staff of permanent missions of foreign states, intergovernmental and international organizations accredited at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as to accredited at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives of mass media including their family members;
 - b) members of official and parliamentary missions;
 - c) other persons with diplomatic status;
 - d) persons who arrived in the country at the invitation of foreign citizens listed in sub-paragraph "a" of paragraph 3 of the present regulations;
4. Multiple visas are issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan to foreign citizens listed in sub-paragraph "a" of paragraph 3 of the present regulations for the period of their accreditation and to other citizens listed in sub-paragraphs "b", "c" and "d" of the same paragraph for a period up to one year.
5. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Karakalpakistan, Departments of Internal Affairs of the viloyats (provinces) and the city of Tashkent issue visas and extend their validity for exit from the Republic of Uzbekistan (exit, exit-entry) to foreign citizens not listed in paragraph 3 of the present regulations.
6. Multiple visas for a period of one year are issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the following categories of foreign citizens and their family members:
- a) staff of permanent offices of firms and companies, accredited at the Ministry of External Economic Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in case of availability of documentation, confirming that a foreign citizen becomes staff member. Visa is issued upon request from the permanent office of a foreign firm or a company.
 - b) Staff of foreign banks or other financial organizations, registered in the Republic of Uzbekistan in accordance with the legislation requirements, in case of availability of documentation, confirming that a foreign citizen becomes staff member of a foreign bank or other financial organization. Visa is issued upon request from a foreign bank or other financial organization.
 - c) staff of joint ventures and enterprises with 100% foreign investment, staff of foreign firms, registered or accredited in the Republic of Uzbekistan, after getting the permission for activity from the Ministry of Labor of the Republic of Uzbekistan, except as otherwise provided by bilateral and multilateral Agreements. Visa is issued upon request from an enterprise.
7. Entry visa to the Republic of Uzbekistan, except transit one, is valid all over the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, excluding territories and objects closed for visits by foreign citizens.
8. State tolls are payable for issuance and extension of validity of entry and exit visas to foreign citizens by consular institutions and bodies of internal affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan sets up the amount and order of collecting tolls.
9. Regulations on entry to and exit from the Republic of Uzbekistan, periods of issuance and validity of visas of foreign citizens are subject to changes by bilateral and multilateral agreements between Uzbekistan and other countries as well as on parity basis by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in agreement with the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

II. The procedure for entry visa issuance.

10. Foreign citizens, intending to arrive in the Republic of Uzbekistan at the invitations of juridical persons or permanent missions of foreign states, interstate and international organizations, of foreign citizens accredited in the Republic of Uzbekistan, apply for visas to consular institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad. In case such institutions are not available they should apply to consular institutions of other states, with which there exist agreements to implement consular functions for the Republic of Uzbekistan. Foreign citizens present 2 copies of filled in visa form with attached invitation, foreign passport or other adequate document (hereafter "foreign passport").

Juridical persons or permanent missions of foreign states, international organizations, accredited in the Republic of Uzbekistan send invitations to foreign citizens only after having requested the MFA of the Republic of Uzbekistan on providing visa support.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan considers written requests from juridical persons or permanent missions of foreign states, international organizations, foreign citizens accredited in the Republic of Uzbekistan and passes instructions to the appropriate consular institutions abroad.

Issuance of entry visa to foreign citizens, arriving in the Republic of Uzbekistan at the invitation of juridical persons in order to work on contract or agreement for a period of more than 3 months, is subject to confirmation of the right for work to be given to a foreign citizen by territorial bodies of the Ministry of Labor in accordance with existing rules.

The period for considering visa documentation and issuance of entry visa to a foreign citizen should not exceed 10 days.

11. Foreign citizens, intending to arrive in the Republic of Uzbekistan at the invitations of citizens or for permanent residence, apply for visa to consular institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad. In case such institutions are not available they should apply to consular institutions of other states, with which there exist agreements to implement consular functions for the Republic of Uzbekistan. Foreign citizens present 2 copies of filled in visa form with attached invitation and foreign passport.

Citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, foreign citizens, residing in the Republic of Uzbekistan temporarily (for more than 3 months) or permanently, wishing to invite foreign citizens from abroad, contact local bodies of internal affairs in places of their residence with filled in form - standard application in 2 copies.

The period for issuing to a foreign citizen of permission for an entry visa to the Republic of Uzbekistan at the invitation of citizens should not exceed 15 days. The period for considering documentation of foreign citizens entering the Republic of Uzbekistan for permanent residence can be exceptionally extended up to 30 days.

12. Foreign citizens apply for tourist visas to consular institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad. In case such institutions are not available they should apply to consular institutions of other states, with which there exist agreements to implement consular functions for the Republic of Uzbekistan. Foreign citizens present 2 copies of filled in visa form with attached foreign passport and voucher of the national company "Uzbektourism" or other tourist organizations, functioning on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan as established by law.

Tourist entry visas for foreign citizens are issued by consular departments of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad within the period of three days excluding holidays and days off.

In case consular institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan are not available in a foreign country it is allowed to issue entry-exit tourist visas to foreign citizens at the consular bureaus of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the airports.

13. Foreign citizens apply for transit visa to consular institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad. In case such institutions are not available they should apply to consular institutions of other states, with which there exist agreements to implement consular functions for the Republic of Uzbekistan. Foreign citizens present 2 copies of filled in visa form with foreign passport visa of the state of destination as well as travel documents with confirmed date of departure from the Republic of Uzbekistan to the country of destination.

Foreign citizens (drivers), transiting the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan (within not more than 72 hours) by private, passenger or cargo transport should provide in addition to the visa form, foreign passport and visa of the state of destination international driver's license, documents confirming ownership and technical state of a vehicle, cargo documentation, confirming delivery of cargo to the country of destination as well as other documents required by the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

14. Heads of diplomatic missions and consular institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad have in exceptional cases a right to take an independent decision on issuance to foreign citizens of entry visa to the Republic of Uzbekistan with further informing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs within 24 hours on the taken decision.

III. The procedure for issuing exit visas from the Republic of Uzbekistan.

15. Foreign citizens and stateless persons, permanent residents in the Republic of Uzbekistan, intending to go abroad, apply to bodies of internal affairs in places of residence with filled in standard application form in 2 copies with attached passport.

Foreign citizens arriving in the Republic of Uzbekistan for a temporary stay, whose exit visas have expired, contact bodies of internal affairs through receiving organizations. Foreign citizens who arrived at the invitations of individuals contact such bodies in person.

16. Bodies of internal affairs consider a foreign citizen's application and issue him exit visa.

A stateless person is issued a certificate of stateless person with attached exit visa. Certificates of stateless persons are issued by bodies of internal affairs in accordance with "the Regulations on Residence Permit in the Republic of Uzbekistan for Foreign Citizens, Stateless Persons and Certificate of a Stateless Person".

The period for issuing exit visa for a foreign citizen should not exceed 15 days.

Foreign citizens and stateless persons, permanent residents in the Republic of Uzbekistan, can get exit visa for a period of two years. During the indicated period foreign citizens and stateless persons can have multiple exits with prior notification of the bodies of internal affairs.

The period of consideration of documents for foreign citizens and stateless persons leaving Uzbekistan for permanent residence abroad can exceptionally be extended up to 30 days.

17. Foreign citizens having received exit permits from Uzbekistan apply for entry visas to the diplomatic missions and consular missions of corresponding states.

18. Applications for exit permits are submitted by foreign citizens of full 18 years. In cases of children under the age of 18 requests are made by their legal representatives. Foreign citizens leaving Uzbekistan for

permanent residence abroad should submit notarized agreement:

- a) of a spouse, citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regarding departure of children under legal age, or regarding departure of a former spouse, when non-adult children from former marriage remain in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- b) Of parents, citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In case of their death a copy of death certificate is to be submitted.
- c) Of children of between 14-18, leaving Uzbekistan for permanent residence abroad.

IV. Restriction of the right to enter and leave the Republic of Uzbekistan.

19. A foreign citizen can be denied a right to enter the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- a) in order to provide national security and protect public order;
- b) if it is necessary to protect rights and legal interests of the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other persons.
- c) If a person was convicted for violation of the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan in case this conviction was not cancelled or he was not freed as established by law.
- d) if a person is concerned with the activities of foreign terrorist, extremist and other criminal organizations;
- e) if a person provided false information about himself or did not present the necessary documents;
- f) if a person during his previous stay violated regulations for entry-exit and rules of stay for foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Republic of Uzbekistan as well as tax, currency and other laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan ;
- g) if a person is sick or has other problems with health that can endanger safety and health of the society, provided the relevant disease is included in the list confirmed by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

20. A foreign citizens is not allowed to leave the Republic of Uzbekistan

- a) if his departure is adverse to the interests of state security, -until termination of the circumstances preventing departure;
- b) if a person has a contractual commitment, preventing his departure abroad for permanent residence, -until termination of these circumstance;
- c) if a person is under criminal prosecution, -until termination of the proceeding(s) or until imposing a judgement;
- d) if a person is convicted of a crime,- until completing sentence or release from punishment;
- e) if a person evades keeping commitments imposed by court, - until fulfilling those commitments;
- f) if a person knowingly presented false information about himself/herself;

g) if a person is sued at law, - until imposing a judgement and its execution;

V. Procedure for appealing a denial of the right to leave the country.

21. A denial of the right to leave the country based on the provisions of section 4 of the present regulations, delay of response beyond the period set by the regulations can be appealed by foreign citizens in superior bodies, which are to give a response not later than within one month. In case of disagreement with the decision of superior bodies foreign citizens can appeal to court. Cases of restriction of the right on the basis of reasons indicated in subparagraph "b" of paragraph 20 of the present regulations cannot be appealed.

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