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the decree of the President of
Turkmenistan
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**REGULATIONS
on the order of entry, exit and stay
of foreign citizens in Turkmenistan**

I. General Provisions

1. On the basis of the standards of international law and in accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan On Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in Turkmenistan and other legal acts and regulations of Turkmenistan these Regulations define the order of:

- a) entry into Turkmenistan and exit from Turkmenistan of foreign citizens;
- b) transit of foreign citizens through the territory of Turkmenistan;
- c) registration of foreign citizens temporarily staying in Turkmenistan;
- d) travel of foreign citizens over the territory of Turkmenistan and their choice of place of residence in Turkmenistan;
- e) responsibility for violation of these Regulations as well as reduction of the periods of stay and expulsion from Turkmenistan of foreign citizens;

These Regulations also apply to stateless persons.

2. Foreign citizens, who stay in Turkmenistan, must hold an international passport or a substituting document (hereinafter – international passport) on their person, registered in the order established by these Regulations as well as a migration card and produce them at the request of the representatives of competent authorities of Turkmenistan.

In the event of a loss of the international passport a foreign citizen must notify his Turkmenistan host organization and internal affairs authorities, who can provide him with a certificate to that effect upon his request.

Foreign citizens have to fill out migration cards upon their arrival to Turkmenistan (the samples of migration cards are attached). There are three types of migration cards: transit, conventional and simplified. Two copies of migration cards must be filled, one of which must be given to the representatives of arrival migration check point at the point of entry, the second copy will remain in the possession of the foreign citizen and upon departure from Turkmenistan it must be submitted to the departure migration check point. In the case of loss of the migration card its copy may be obtained only at the arrival migration check point.

3. Foreign citizens arriving to Turkmenistan temporarily shall stay in hotels or other type of accommodation after providing a timely notice to host organizations, enterprises or institutions (hereinafter – organizations), diplomatic representatives and consular services of their countries, representative offices of international organizations or persons, who has invited them for private matters.

4. Turkmenistan host organizations provide timely explanation to foreign citizens of their rights and responsibilities, observance of rules and regulations

established for foreign citizens, keep appropriate records of foreign citizens, and are responsible for timely registration of relevant documents for their right to stay in Turkmenistan, travel within Turkmenistan and departure from Turkmenistan upon expiration of the period of time allocated to them.

In the order of invitation of foreign citizens of the Turkmenistan of these defined by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the state service of Turkmenistan for registration of foreign citizens.

5. In the instances when foreign citizen has arrived upon an invitation from one of the organizations of Turkmenistan another organization of Turkmenistan has the right to host this person in Turkmenistan upon obtaining an approval from the authorities of the registration service carrying out the responsibilities described in the paragraph 4 of these Regulations with respect to this citizen.

The host organization shall notify the authorities of the registration service domiciliary within three days about his transfer to another organization as well as regarding expiration of the term of his visa or registration, expiration of his labor contract, agreement, term of study etc.

6. The person, who has invited foreign citizens on private matters, or who has provided them with accommodation, must take measures for timely registration of their international passports at the registration service authorities domiciliary.

The persons who invited foreign citizens shall notify registration service authorities in the event of expiration of visa or registration of foreign citizen, as well as provide assistance for the foreign citizen to depart from Turkmenistan upon expiration of his term of stay.

Provision of such persons to the foreign citizens of accommodation, means of transportation or provision to them of other services is forbidden in the cases when it causes deliberate violation of provisions of these Regulations.

7. Foreign citizens arriving to Turkmenistan privately on the basis of appropriate visas may stay in Turkmenistan during the term indicated in their visa.

8. Control over the implementation of the requirements of these Regulations by foreign citizens, stateless persons as well as officials and other citizens is implemented either by authorities of the State Service of Turkmenistan for Registration of Foreign Citizens, State Border Guard service of Turkmenistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan in association with the internal affairs authorities and national security authorities.

II. Entry into Turkmenistan and exit from Turkmenistan of foreign citizens

9. Foreign citizens enter Turkmenistan and exit Turkmenistan through migration control checkpoints at the state border of Turkmenistan open for international traffic holding valid international passports, as for the stateless persons with the valid documents issued by competent authorities of the country of their permanent residence which identify them, with appropriate visas or permissions issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and subsequent acquisition of visa in the established order. Entry visas are issued on the basis of the decision of the visa control board.

A different order of entry and exit may be established in accordance with the international treaties of Turkmenistan.

Foreign citizens awarded the status of Honorable Citizen of Turkmenistan enter and exit Turkmenistan through migration control checkpoints located on the state border of Turkmenistan when they produce a certificate confirming the title of the Honorable Citizen of Turkmenistan and a valid international passport or a document which substitutes, in which case they do not need an appropriate visa.

The stateless persons permanently residing in Turkmenistan need an exit visa to depart abroad for permanent residence.

10. Turkmenistan entry visas as well as visas for entry to and exit from Turkmenistan are issued to the foreign citizens abroad at the diplomatic representatives or consulate services of Turkmenistan in the established order.

11. Visas for entry to Turkmenistan and visas for exit from Turkmenistan are issued on the territory of Turkmenistan by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan on the basis of the decision of the visa control board.

To foreign citizens entering Turkmenistan for work, study or for private matters for the period exceeding three months, visas will be granted upon producing a certificate of medical examination for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV - infection).

12. Upon request of the host organization of Turkmenistan foreign citizens shall be granted visas for multiple entry to Turkmenistan and multiple exit from Turkmenistan. The order of granting a multiple entry visa is defined by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

13. The order of preparing the paperwork for foreign citizens arriving to Turkmenistan in the simplified order is regulated by the international treaties of Turkmenistan.

14. Basis for issuing of visas for entry to Turkmenistan and exit from Turkmenistan and extension of the term of their stay are:

for foreign citizens arriving to Turkmenistan at the request of host organizations of Turkmenistan and permanent foreign representative offices is a written request of such organizations and representatives;

for foreign citizens entering Turkmenistan for private matters or for permanent residence as well as for foreign citizens permanently residing in Turkmenistan, for travel abroad for private matters or for exit from the country for permanent residence – a permit shall be issued on an application of these citizens. Such permits shall be issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan;

two copies of invitations for entry to Turkmenistan of foreign citizens prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, the second copy to be produced at the time of entry to Turkmenistan;

other grounds provided for by the international treaties of Turkmenistan.

Extension of times of visas for foreign citizens is allowed only if such citizens have appropriate marks in the passports made by authorities of the state service of Turkmenistan for Registration of Foreign Citizens on their previous visas.

15. Entry to Turkmenistan and exit from Turkmenistan of foreign citizens may be denied on the grounds established by the clauses 24 and 25 of the law of Turkmenistan On Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in Turkmenistan.

16. In the event of a loss of a visa by foreign citizens they shall immediately notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan reviews the issue of issuing foreign citizens visas for entry to Turkmenistan at the same time notifying appropriate competent bodies upon receipt of personal written application from citizens arriving to Turkmenistan on private matters or residing permanently in Turkmenistan or upon receipt of written applications of host organizations.

III. Registration of foreign citizens temporary staying in Turkmenistan

17. Foreign citizens temporary arriving to Turkmenistan reside on the territory of Turkmenistan with their international passports registered in the order established by these regulations as well as other legal regulatory acts, which regulate the order of registration of foreign citizens.

18. Registration of foreign citizens is carried out by the authorities of the State Service of Turkmenistan for Registration of Foreign Citizens:

at the checkpoints of migration control on the state border of Turkmenistan;
at the affiliates of the Service in velayats and cities.

Registration of foreign citizens arriving to Turkmenistan in the simplified order for up to five days of stay inclusively shall be carried out only at the checkpoints of migration control. Foreign citizens arriving to Turkmenistan in the simplified order shall leave the country through the same migration control checkpoint which they have used to enter Turkmenistan.

Registration of foreign citizens passing through the territory of Turkmenistan on transit shall be carried out only at the migration control checkpoints if their period of stay in Turkmenistan does not exceed five days.

19. Foreign citizens arriving to Turkmenistan pay a registration fee for stay in Turkmenistan in the amount of 10 US dollars. The order of collection of the registration fee is defined by the Ministry of Economy and Finances of Turkmenistan and the Central Bank of Turkmenistan. The persons entering Turkmenistan in the simplified order in accordance with the international treaties of Turkmenistan as well as persons indicated in the paragraph 21 - 23 of these Regulations are exempt from the payment of registration fee.

The money generated from the payment of the registration fee for stay in Turkmenistan shall be transferred to the state fund of development of the Golden Age of Turkmenistan.

20. Foreign citizens arriving to Turkmenistan shall register with the authorities of the State Service of Turkmenistan for Registration of Foreign Citizens within three days of their arrival excluding holidays and weekends.

21. The following persons do not have to register:

a) heads of states, parliaments and governments of foreign countries, the members of the government, state and parliament delegations as well as the staff of such delegations and family members of the above-mentioned persons, arriving to Turkmenistan on an invitation of the president of Turkmenistan, of Mejlis of Turkmenistan or of the Cabinet Ministers of Turkmenistan;

b) heads of delegations of intergovernmental international organizations as well as members of such delegations and family members of the above-mentioned persons arriving to Turkmenistan on invitations of the president of Turkmenistan, of Mejlis of Turkmenistan or of the Cabinet Ministers of Turkmenistan;

c) crew members of foreign war-ships and war-planes who have arrived to Turkmenistan in an established order;

Permission for disembarkation and travel through with the territory of Turkmenistan crew members of war-ships (war-planes) can be issued only by a senior maritime (military) commander the port (garrison) in Turkmenistan according to the plan of acceptance of arriving war-ships (war-planes);

d) crew members of foreign non-military sea (river) ships, when they are located in ports or port cities of Turkmenistan and during organized tours for such persons for excursions to other cities of the country.

Disembarkation of such persons is permitted by the representatives of the State Service of Turkmenistan for Registration of Foreign Citizens in accordance with the rules and instructions existing in such ports;

e) crew members of civilian international airline aircrafts, international train crews. Exit of airports and railway station for the crew members of foreign aircrafts and trains can be permitted by the representatives of the State Service of Turkmenistan for Registration of Foreign Citizens in accordance with the rules and regulations existing in ports and railway stations;

f) foreign citizens awarded a status of the Honorable Citizen of Turkmenistan.

22. The international passports of the following citizens shall be registered at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan:

a) the heads of foreign diplomatic representatives and consular services, members of diplomatic personnel, consular officials, administrative, technical and service personnel of diplomatic representatives and consular services, employees of offices of defense attaches and trade representatives as well as their spouses, children, parents, dependent on them, and guests of the heads of foreign diplomatic representatives and consular services in case if their guests are residing in their residences or on the territory of the above-mentioned representatives and services;

b) employees of the foreign affairs institutions of foreign countries who has arrived to Turkmenistan on business trips holding diplomatic or service passports and members of their families;

c) officials of international organizations, employees of the representatives of the above-mentioned organizations in Turkmenistan as well as employees of the representatives of the countries in international organizations with their headquarters in Turkmenistan arriving to Turkmenistan on business trips, who enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunities as well as members on their families;

d) persons arriving to Turkmenistan with passports issued by the United Nations Organization if the term of their stay does not exceed five days;

e) foreign journalists accredited in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and members of their families.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan issues appropriate accreditation cards to the above-mentioned persons and makes respective records on registration directly in the international passports.

The persons listed in this paragraph are exempt from registration in the State Service of Turkmenistan on Registration of Foreign Citizens.

23. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan shall have the right to carry out registration of international passports of state and public figures of foreign countries and members of their families when they arrive to Turkmenistan and when host organizations of Turkmenistan, diplomatic representatives or consular services request that and carry out registration of diplomatic passports of employees of international organizations not listed in the paragraph 21 of these regulations. In such cases foreign citizens do not need to register the international passports with the authorities of state service of Turkmenistan for registration of foreign citizens.

24. Foreign citizens arriving to Turkmenistan for tourism shall be registered with the authorities of state committee of Turkmenistan on tourism and sports.

Ministries and institutions listed in paragraph 23-24 of these Regulations notify the State Service of Turkmenistan on Registration of Foreign Citizens about registration of foreign citizens domiciliary.

25. Citizens not listed in paragraphs 21-24 of these Regulations shall be registered in the authorities of the State Service of Turkmenistan for Registration of Foreign Citizens.

Registration is carried out on the basis of written applications of host organizations of Turkmenistan or foreign representatives in Turkmenistan. Applications shall be submitted to the authorities of the State Service of Turkmenistan for Registration of Foreign Citizens not later than three days (excluding holidays and the days) since the moment of submission of international passports by foreign citizens to host organizations for registration.

Registration of foreign citizens arriving to Turkmenistan for private matters shall be carried out at the authorities of the State Service of Turkmenistan for Registration of Foreign Citizens on the basis of their visa unless another order of entry to Turkmenistan was established by international treaties of Turkmenistan.

Registration of foreign citizens arriving to Turkmenistan in a simplified order from countries with which Turkmenistan has international treaties shall be carried out with the authorities of the state service of Turkmenistan for registration of foreign citizens at the point of arrival.

Registration of foreign citizens studying at the educational establishments of Turkmenistan shall be carried out for one academic year and extended for subsequent academic year upon submission of request and supporting documents from educational establishment where they are studying.

Registration of foreign citizens - crew members of international auto vehicles carrying out cargo and passenger transportation assignments internationally when they are located in settlements en route, including points of destination shall be carried out with the authorities of the State Service of Turkmenistan for registration of Foreign Citizens domiciliary if the term of their stay in Turkmenistan does not exceed five days.

26. A record of registration in the international passports of foreign citizens shall be made in Turkmenistan at the point of initial entry for such citizens.

27. Extension of registration of foreign citizens shall be carried out with the authorities of the State Service of Turkmenistan for Registration of Foreign Citizens. Extension of registration shall be carried out after the extension of visa.

28. Extension of registration for foreign citizens registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan shall be carried out by the above-mentioned Ministry.

29. Personal and service vehicles of foreign citizens arriving to Turkmenistan for the period up to six months shall be registered with the authorities of the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan. Vehicles brought into Turkmenistan by foreign owners for the period exceeding six months shall be registered with the authorities of the Motor Licensing and Inspection Department of the Ministry of defense of Turkmenistan and their license plates shall be substituted with the national ones.

International driving licenses are valid in Turkmenistan. National driving licenses which meet the requirements of the Convention on Vehicular Traffic are valid in Turkmenistan provided that they are accompanied with a certified translation. Driving licenses valid in Turkmenistan shall be issued for foreign citizens in exchange of national driving licenses of foreign citizens which failed to meet the requirements of the above-mentioned convention in the order established for the citizens of Turkmenistan.

The state technical examination of the means of transportation of foreign citizens shall be carried out in the order established for the citizens of Turkmenistan.

Citizens of Turkmenistan and foreign citizens can lend their vehicles to other foreign citizens and such arrangements shall be registered by a notary public. Vehicles brought in by foreign citizens with an obligation to take them out of the country afterwards shall be taken out of the country on the expiration of the indicated period, they cannot be alienated on the territory of Turkmenistan.

IV. Travel of foreign citizens over the territory of Turkmenistan and their choice of place of residence in Turkmenistan

30. Foreign citizens can travel over the territory of Turkmenistan open for visiting.

Individual regions where the order of entry and stay is regulated by the law are identified by the president of Turkmenistan.

Foreign citizens temporarily arriving to Turkmenistan at the request of their host organizations shall notify such organizations two days prior to departure, who in turn will also notify the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan to that effect.

Foreign citizens, arriving to Turkmenistan on private matters as well as foreign citizens, permanently residing in Turkmenistan shall notify authorities of the Registration Service two days before the planned departure and the persons, arriving through diplomatic channels and for service matters – the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

Upon arrival at the destination foreign citizens have to register their temporary stay at hotels or with the authorities of the Registration Service or with the host organizations.

Foreign citizens, holding the status of The Honorable Citizen of Turkmenistan may travel freely over the territory of Turkmenistan open for visiting upon producing a certificate of the status of The Honorable Citizen of Turkmenistan and a valid international passport or a substituting document.

31. In the regions, restricted for visiting by foreign citizens their entry and travel may be carried out only with a permission of the authorities of the Registration Service, as for the persons, who arrived to Turkmenistan at the request of host organizations of Turkmenistan – on the basis of a written application of such organizations, approved in the established order, the citizens, who has arrived at the request of the foreign representatives or for private matters or if they stay in Turkmenistan permanently – on the basis of their personal written applications. At the request of organizations of Turkmenistan they can be granted permits for multiple entry and travel.

32. The order of travel over the territory of Turkmenistan for foreign citizens, registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan is determined by the above mentioned Ministry.

This order also concerns employees of airlines, banks, trade and industry firms and other foreign representatives permanently accredited in Turkmenistan.

The order of travel of foreign correspondents and journalists, accredited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and members of their families shall be established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan.

33. Foreign citizens who have stayed in Turkmenistan in violation of these Regulations must return to their previous place of residence at the request of the authorities of the registration service in accordance with the indicated point of destination.

V. Transit of foreign citizens through Turkmenistan

34. Transit of foreign citizens through Turkmenistan is carried out provided that they hold an international passport, transit visa and travel documents to enter Turkmenistan and proceed to contiguous states.

Transit visas for drivers, carrying out international transportation shall be issued by diplomatic representatives and consular services of Turkmenistan abroad.

Foreign citizens following in transit through Turkmenistan do not have the right to deviate from the indicated route on the territory of Turkmenistan if they do not have a permission to do so.

Diplomatic representatives and consular services of Turkmenistan abroad shall submit information about foreign citizens, who were granted transit visas with an indication of acquired and passport data, country of destination, estimated travel route to the Department of Consular Services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan on a daily basis before 3.00 PM.

**VI. Responsibility for violation of these Regulations.
Reduction of stay and expulsion
of foreign citizens from Turkmenistan**

35. For violation of the requirements of these Regulations foreign citizens are brought to account in accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan On Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in Turkmenistan and the Code of Turkmenistan on administrative violations.

Violation of the requirements of these Regulations by persons, who are obliged to observe them (including the persons, who has invited foreign citizens to Turkmenistan on private matters or who provides them services), entails responsibility in accordance with the Legislation of Turkmenistan.

36. Reduction of stay in Turkmenistan and expulsion of foreign citizens from Turkmenistan is carried out on the basis of the grounds laid out in the articles 30 and 31 of the Law of Turkmenistan On Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in Turkmenistan.

37. Decisions on reduction of stay of foreign citizens in Turkmenistan and their expulsion from Turkmenistan are made by the authorities of the registration service.

38. Applications on expulsion of foreign citizens from Turkmenistan in cases provided for by the legislation of Turkmenistan when such citizens have arrived to at the request of host organizations of Turkmenistan are submitted immediately to the authorities of the registration service.

39. Expulsion of foreign citizens from Turkmenistan on the basis of decision passed in the established order shall be carried out by the authorities of the registration service in accordance with the article 31 of the Law of Turkmenistan On Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in Turkmenistan.

Expenses for expulsion shall be being paid for by the foreign citizens, who are being expelled, host organizations or natural persons, who has invited foreign citizens to Turkmenistan.

40. Foreign citizens shall have the right to appeal their expulsion from Turkmenistan or reduction of stay in Turkmenistan in the order established by the Law of Turkmenistan.