

# Tax & Legal Alert

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## International assignment solutions

The Bulgarian Parliament passed a new Regulation on the Conditions for Issuance of Visas and Determination of the Visa Regime, which will enter into force on 10 July 2008 and will repeal the current Regulation on the Conditions for Issuance of Visas.



## New visa regulation

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The new regulation provides for the following amendments:

### Short-term visa C

1. Until now short-term visas C were issued for one, two or multiple entries in Bulgaria for a total period of stay of up to 90 days within a 6-month period. With the new regulation under certain conditions visa C can be issued for a period of 1 year, and up to 5 years under exceptional circumstances. The total days of stay remain 90.
2. The regulation introduces new requirements for the documents supporting the visa C application:
  - Up to now the invitation for private trips had to be certified by the municipality as per the inviter's permanent address, and the invitation for business trips had to be certified by the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Under the new rules the invitation letter whether for private or business trips, needs to be certified by a notary and by the Bulgarian immigration authorities.
  - A new requirement for the foreigner is to present a medical insurance policy with a minimal coverage of EUR 30,000, issued by a licensed insurance company operating within the EU.
3. Multiple-entry short-term visa C can now be issued to foreigners who are family members of a citizen of an EU/EEA member state or Switzerland who has been issued a certificate for long-term residence in Bulgaria. In this case it is not required to present a declaration for financial support with the application documents.

## Long-term visa D

1. Long-term visa D gives the right to multiple entry and residence on the territory of Bulgaria while the foreigner applies for a residence permit. The new Regulation allows the foreigner 180 days of stay within a 6-month period.
2. A visa D application can now be filed only with the Consular Office of the Bulgarian Embassy in the country of the applicant's permanent residence. Until now the application could be filed at any Bulgarian Consular Office abroad.
3. The procedure for issuance of a visa D now includes a mandatory interview with the applicant in person, which is scheduled by the consular official upon filing of the application.
4. Upon applying for a visa D the foreigner should enclose a medical insurance policy with a minimal coverage of EUR 30,000, issued by an EU licensed insurance company.

The new Regulation enters into force in 10 July 2008.



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