

RESIDENCY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Starting in 2011, the Ministry of the Interior will assume responsibility for the **management of long-term residence permits and long-stay visas**. The Ministry has taken over these activities from the Foreign Police.

This means that the **offices dealing with all matters related to residency in the Czech Republic will change**. At the same time, the **catchment areas for individual offices will also change**.

In what circumstances should you contact the new

REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR (Department for Asylum and Migration Policy)?

Contact the Foreigners Residency section when you wish to:

- apply for an extension to a long-stay visa (applications for such visas should continue to be made to the relevant Czech embassies)
- apply for a long-term residence permit or its extension
- apply for permanent residence
- apply for a certificate of temporary residence (EU citizens)
- apply for a residency card for a member of your family (EU citizens) and its extension
- report a change in your place of residence in the Czech Republic should you intend to reside there for longer than 30 days
- apply for a certificate of residency (should you hold a long-stay visa, a long-term or permanent residence permit, or should you be an EU citizen or a member of their family, and should you reside only temporarily in the Czech Republic)

THE FOREIGN POLICE

retains responsibility for dealing with:

- your reporting of your place of residence in the Czech Republic within the given statutory time period
- the verification of an invitation
- the issuing of short-term residence certificates or certificates certifying a legitimate right of residence in the Czech Republic (e. g. for marriage)
- extensions to stays in the Czech Republic should you hold a short-term visa
- checks on the legitimacy of stays in the Czech Republic

AMENDMENT TO THE ACT ON RESIDENCE OF FOREIGN NATIONALS – KEY CHANGES

The Act on Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic, as amended (Act no. 326/1999 Coll.) shall remain the key legal instrument stipulating the conditions for the entry and stay of foreigners in the Czech Republic.

Its latest amendment introduced a number of changes, the most important of which are the following:

New resident cards

From May 2011, citizens of third countries (not applicable to family members of EU citizens) will be issued with cards detailing residency status and carrying biometric data. In connection with this, you should visit a dedicated Ministry of the Interior facility to provide this data (your facial image and fingerprints will be taken). Those already staying in the Czech Republic and applying for a residence permit will be invited by the Ministry of the Interior to present themselves at one of these facilities. When your new card is ready, you will be asked to collect it.

Should you fail to collect your long-term residence card, the process will be terminated.

Should you fail to collect a permanent residence card, you may be fined.

Existing resident cards will remain valid until their original expiry date or until the personal data listed therein changes, at which point they will be replaced by biometric cards.

New application conditions

You are obliged to apply for a residence permit (both long-term and permanent) in person at the relevant Ministry of the Interior office.

New requirements on the proof of your having accommodation

When proof of your having accommodation is required for a residence permit, you should submit one of the following documents:

- proof of your ownership of the apartment/house in question
- proof of your right to use the apartment/house in question
- a notarised statement by the owner or rightful user of the relevant apartment/house stating that they agree to your living there

No other documents shall be taken as proof of your having accommodation.

Accommodation may only be provided in a property intended for residential, recreational or tourist accommodation.

Changes in residence permits related to business

Should you wish to change the purpose of your residence to that of business, you are required to have been residing in the Czech Republic for at least two years. This condition is applicable both to those wishing to be self-employed and those intending to become partners/members in trading companies or co-operatives.

Pursuant to the amendment, you are now required to submit, together with your application for issue/renewal of a long-term residence permit for the purpose of business, the following:

- proof that your monthly income is higher than the total of the subsistence minimum plus the cost of your accommodation;
- proof of your registration in the relevant register, list, or record (e.g. a commercial/trade licence register);
- if you are self-employed: statements issued by the relevant authorities certifying that you have no outstanding tax or social security payments;
- if you are a partner/member in a trading company and/or a co-operative: statements issued by the relevant authorities certifying that the trading company/co-operative has no outstanding tax or social security payments;
- upon request: a paid income tax assessment.

New applications for travel medical insurance cards

Should you be requesting - from abroad - a permit to stay in the Czech Republic for longer than 90 days and proof of your having travel medical insurance is required, such insurance shall cover the cost of necessary and immediate health care. The sum assured shall be at least EUR 60,000. Along with proof of your having travel medical insurance, you will be required to submit a notarised Czech translation of your insurance contract and its general conditions. Upon request, you are also obliged to submit proof that you have paid the insurance premium for the entire period of your requested stay.

If you are already in the Czech Republic and are applying for renewal of your long-stay visa or long-term residence permit, you will be required to submit proof of travel medical insurance providing comprehensive health care from an insurer licensed to provide such insurance in the Czech Republic.

NOTE:

The information listed here is for reference only - for the text of the Act, please visit

www.mvcr.cz/cizinci

Proceedings concerning applications for long-stay visas or long-term residence permits which commenced before the amendment came into effect shall be completed pursuant to the law in effect at the date of application.