Simplified Procedure for Granting Russian Citizenship to Foreign Businessmen, Investors and Specialists

Under the amendments, foreign citizens and stateless persons residing in the territory of the Russian Federation may apply for the Russian citizenship in a simplified procedure without meeting the period of residence established by the Citizenship Law, in particular, if such citizens and persons:

1. received after 1 July 2002 professional education on the main state-accredited professional educational programs in educational and scientific institutions of the Russian Federation, in its territory and engage in employment activity in Russia in the aggregate not less than three years prior to the date of application for the citizenship of the Russian Federation. It was clarified that during the said period the employer of such foreign citizens and stateless persons should make insurance contributions to the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation (PFR);

2. engage in employment activities in Russia for at least three years prior to the application for the citizenship of the Russian Federation according to the profession (specialty, positions) included in the list of professions (specialties, positions) of foreign citizens and stateless persons - qualified specialists eligible to the Russian citizenship in a simplified procedure. It was also clarified that during the said period the respective employer of such foreign citizens and stateless persons should make insurance contributions to the PFR;

3. are individual businessmen and do business in Russia continuously for at least three years prior to the year of the application for the citizenship of the Russian Federation, and during this period the amount of taxes and duties (except for the property tax on individuals, land tax, vehicle tax, state duty, and overpaid and(or) overcharged taxes and fees refunded in accordance with the legislation on taxes and fees within the specified period) and insurance contributions to the PFR paid by such citizens and persons in each calendar year is not less than 1 million roubles (currently, this amount is 10 million roubles);

4. are investors owning the share in the charter (contributed) capital of a Russian legal entity operating in the territory of Russia not less than 10 per cent for at least three years prior to the year of the application for citizenship of the Russian Federation (note: the current version of the Citizenship Law does not contain such three-year criterion), and the amount of the charter (contributed) capital of such legal entity is not be less than 100 million roubles, and during this period the amount of taxes and duties (except for the state duty and overpaid and(or) overcharged taxes and fees refunded in accordance with the legislation on taxes and fees within the specified period) and insurance contributions to the PFR paid by such legal entity in each calendar year is not less than 6 million roubles.

Pursuant to the said amendments, the federal executive authority engaged in the control and supervision in the area of migration, and its territorial divisions are granted the powers to request and receive the respective information to verify compliance with the above criteria for granting the citizenship of the Russian Federation, including the information treated as tax secret, from the Federal Tax Service of the Russian Federation, the PFR, and from a professional securities market participant licensed to maintain the register of securities owners.

The amendments become effective from 31 July 2016.
This information is provided for your convenience and does not constitute legal advice. It is prepared for the general information of our clients and other interested persons and it may include links to websites other than the GRATA International website. This information should not be acted upon in any specific situation without appropriate legal advice.

Contacts:

Yana Dianova

Director of Corporate and Commercial Law Department

GRATA International Law Firm (Moscow)

Ph.: +7 (495) 660 11 84

E-mail: ydianova@gratanet.com;