

New Immigration Legal Regime and its Implementation Rules to Take Effect on 15 November 2021

Press Release

Law No. 16/2021 (Legal Regime of Immigration Control, Stay and Residence Authorization of the Macao Special Administrative Region) was passed in detail by the Legislative Assembly on 5 August 2021 and was published subsequently on 16 August. Administrative Regulation No. 38/2021 (Main Implementation Rules for the Legal Regime of Immigration Control, Stay and Residence Authorization of the Macao Special Administrative Region), which was formulated to complement the Law, has been published today. The above Law and Administrative Regulation will take effect on 15 November 2021.

What the above new Administrative Regulation regulates includes the administrative procedures for granting Entry, Stay and Residence Authorization of the Macao Special Administrative Region, other documents for immigration control purposes accepted in addition to passports and travel documents, the minimum remaining validity period of an immigration document, system of Special Authorization to Stay, and the two more important fees, i.e. fees for Residence Authorization and late renewal.

Relative to the original stipulations, the additional contents and adjustments of the new Administrative Regulation mainly include:

1. Stipulation on the period of handling the application for Special Authorization to Stay and Residence Authorization by the Administration;
2. The required minimum period of validity (after the period of stay being granted) for immigration documents will be increased to 90 days;
3. Producing a new Special Authorization to Stay for people who provide service within the scope of cooperation actions between public entities, discharge the duties of arbitrator, and discharge the duties of representatives within the scope of intergovernmental or interregional co-operation, and for traditional vendors;
4. Adjustments in the stipulations of validity and renewal of Residence Authorization, particularly the cancellation of the provisions in the original regime under which renewal is still allowed for Residence Authorization within 180 days after its expiry. The new regulation clearly defines that the Residence Authorization expires upon the end of the period of validity, and

the transitional arrangement will be established for its renewal to that end.

In regard to the key amendments, the relevant regulations and administrative formalities in the aspects of immigration, stay and residence, the Public Security Police Force will make further announcements in due course. Please visit our official website and follow our WeChat official account for the announcement and publicity of the relevant information.

The assessment criteria for the adequate means of subsistence that non-residents have during the intended period of stay in the Macao Special Administrative Region and the regulation of the safe transmission of information to the Public Security Police Force by transport operators and hotel establishment operators under Article 101 of Law No. 16/2021, as well as the relevant administrative fees and exemption conditions provided for in Article 42 and the designated templates of permits, certificates and forms referred to in Article 45 of Administrative Regulation No. 38/2021, are to be prescribed by Order of the Chief Executive. The Order on the assessment criteria for means of subsistence has been published today, with the remaining issues to be announced in due course.

In order to implement the new Law effectively, the Public Security Police Force has conducted internal staff training for them to be conversant with the new regulations as soon as possible, and organized seminars to promote the Law to the relevant departments, organizations and industry, so as to establish communication and to interface them with the existing regulations. Subsequently, we will continue to conduct publicity and organize seminars for the general public, government departments and industry through various channels, so as to keep them abreast of the new immigration regime and regulations and to upgrade their awareness of understanding and abiding by the Law. As the new Law comes into effect, the Public Security Police Force will certainly uphold to the principles of undertaking enforcement actions according to the Law, and will endeavour to prevent and combat against the illegal acts in the scope of immigration affairs, to provide the community with service of good quality and to ensure that Macao remains a safe city for living and travelling.

Public Security Police Force
8 November 2021