



New Ukrainian Regulations on the Entry and Stay of Foreign Nationals

On 11 of July 2007, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine issued a Decree which substantially changed the regulations on the entry and stay of foreigners who are citizens of countries with no visa requirement for the Ukraine (such as Germany, Austria, Great Britain as well as other EU member states, Switzerland, Japan and the US). The Decree came into power on 26 of July 2007.

Foreign nationals who are citizens of the forementioned states used to be allowed to enter Ukraine without a visa, showing their valid passport, and stay in Ukraine without a visa and a residence permit for the short term of up to 90 calendar days from entry date. The number of entries per year was not restricted. Foreign nationals had to leave Ukraine before the expiration of the 90-day term and were allowed to enter the country already on the next day. After every entry, the 90-day term started again. The overall duration of the stay per calendar year was not restricted and could actually amount to more than 90 days.

Since the Decree came into power, foreign nationals who are citizens of the aforementioned states are allowed to enter Ukraine as before without visa showing their valid passport and stay in Ukraine without visa and residence permit for a short term. However, the overall duration of the stay must not exceed 90 calendar days per 180 calendar days from arrival date. The number of entries will continue to stay unrestricted. However, unlike in the old regulations, the duration of the stay will be added up. This means that foreign nationals, during a period that amounts to 180 days starting from the date of the first entry (important is the date in the stamp of the border authority), may not stay longer than for 90 calendar days in total. The following entry is possible only during the next period of 180 calendar days and, again, must not exceed 90 calendar days.

For longer stays a suitable visa will be required depending on the purpose of the stay. After Ukraine has joined the World Trade Organisation, citizens of the member states will be able to stay in the Ukraine for the maximum duration of 180 days per year.

The new regulations apply only to entries made after 26 of July 2007. For foreigners who entered Ukraine before this date, the old regulations apply with respect to the duration of their stay until they have left Ukraine.

However, it is possible to extend the duration of the stay without having to leave Ukraine. The foreign national and the inviting person should file an application with the Ukrainian immigration authority and provide their passport as well as further accompanying documents at least 3 days before the expiration date. The time for consideration is 3 days. The ultimate decision is mostly within the discretion of the authority.