

Legal Alert

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Update on restrictions introduced in Russia over coronavirus threat

From 13 March 2020, citizens of Italy traveling on work, tourist or student visas will be temporarily denied entry into the Russian Federation¹. The Moscow Region has imposed a high-alert regime to prevent the spread of COVID-19.²

Temporary travel ban for Italian citizens

- The ban applies to Italian citizens traveling to Russia on the basis of work, private, student and tourist visas, as well as for transit purposes. The ban also applies to other foreign nationals and stateless persons living or located in Italy.
- The ban of entry into Russia on the basis of work visas also applies to Italian citizens if they return to Russia after 13 March 2020.
- The ban does not impose any restriction on Italian citizens traveling to Russia on business visas or permanent residence permits.
- Russian consular offices abroad have stopped issuing work, private, student, tourist and transit visas for Italian citizens, as well as for foreign nationals and stateless persons living or located in Italy.
- The migration authorities have stopped accepting applications for work permits and work visa invitations, as well as private and student visa invitations, for Italian citizens who are outside Russia or for other foreign nationals or stateless persons living or located in Italy.
- The migration authorities will not issue work permits and visa invitations for Italian citizens that were approved earlier.
- The migration authorities should renew the migration documents of Italian citizens who are on the territory of Russia. However, the migration authorities have the right to require Italian citizens to undergo medical examinations and/or request additional documents from him/her.³

High-alert regime in the Moscow Region

Employees of companies operating in Moscow Region who return from countries with registered cases of coronavirus are to self-isolate for 14 days, and must report to the authorities via a special hotline (8 800 550 50 30).

Employers operating in Moscow Region are obliged to ensure compliance with the self-isolation regime and inform the Moscow Region's division of Rospotrebnadzor, if requested, about all work contacts of employees who have tested positive for COVID-19, as well as disinfect the premises where the

¹ Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of 12.03.2020 N 153-p.

² Decree of the Governor of the Moscow Region of 12.03.2020 No. 108-PG "On the introduction in the Moscow Region of a high-alert regime for the governing bodies and forces of the Moscow Regional Emergency Prevention and Response System and some measures to prevent the spread of a new coronavirus infection (2019-nCoV) in the territory of Moscow region."

³ Decree of the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Russian Federation of 31 January 2020 No. 3 "On the Implementation of Additional Sanitary and Anti-epidemic (Preventive) Measures to Prevent the Importation and Spread of the New Coronavirus Infection Caused by 2019-nCoV."



employee was located. Employers are also recommended to allow employees to work remotely.

Consequences of violation

Companies that fail to comply with mandatory rules of sanitary and epidemiological safety may entail a fine of up to 30,000 rubles (approx. USD 450). In cases of a repeated or a gross violation, authorities may suspend the business activities of a company for up to 90 days.⁴

In addition, authorities may deport foreign nationals for violations or deny re-entry.

If the situation with the spread of COVID-19 worsens, authorities may potentially resort to criminal prosecution. Under Article 236 of the Russian Criminal Code, violations of sanitary-epidemiological rules that result in mass diseases through negligence are punishable by a supervised restriction of freedom for up to one year, and by a prison term of up to five years if such negligent acts result in human death.

Coronavirus Resource Center

Baker McKenzie has launched [Client Resource Centre](#), where you will find all of our materials regarding COVID-19, categorized by region. It continues to be built out daily.

This LEGAL ALERT is issued to inform Baker McKenzie clients and other interested parties of legal developments that may affect or otherwise be of interest to them. The comments above do not constitute legal or other advice and should not be regarded as a substitute for specific advice in individual cases.

⁴ Articles 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation No. 195-FZ of 30 December 2001.