

Information for the public

On 20 March 2020, the Act on Provisional Measures in Connection with Judicial, Administrative and Other Public Law Matters for the Control of the Spread of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) (hereinafter: the Act) was adopted. The Act entered into force on Sunday, 29 March 2020.

In accordance with the Act, the following temporary measures will apply in procedures of issuing residence permits to third-country nationals, issuing residence registration certificates and permanent residence registration certificates to citizens of EEA member states, issuing residence permits and permanent residence permits to their family members and family members of Slovenian citizens and issuing residence permits to citizens of the Swiss Confederation and their family members, which are conducted in accordance with the Foreigners Act and the Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other, on the free movement of persons:

1. **Temporary residence permits, residence registration certificates for citizens of EEA member states, residence permits for family members of citizens of EEA member states or of Slovenian citizens and temporary residence permits for citizens of the Swiss Confederation and their family members that expire after the entry into force of the Act or during the period when the measures under the Act are carried out, shall remain valid until 9 July 2020 at the latest.** Residence permits, temporary residence permits and residence registration certificates for citizens of EEA member states will only cease to be valid before this date if the Government of the Republic of Slovenia finds that the reasons behind the measures referred to in the Act have ceased to exist and publishes a decision to this effect in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia. In this case, (temporary) residence permits and residence registration certificates for citizens of EEA member states will cease to be valid on the eighth day following the termination of measures under the Act.
2. **Applications** for the extension of temporary residence permits and the issuance of subsequent temporary residence permits, applications for the extension of residence permits for family members of citizens of EEA member states or Slovenian citizens, applications for the renewal of residence registration certificates for citizens of EEA member states and applications for the extension of temporary residence permits for citizens of the Swiss Confederation and their family members the validity of which was extended by the Act and which will be lodged with the competent administrative units **after the entry into force of the Act and before the expiry of the period for which the validity of a (temporary) residence permit or residence registration certificate for citizens of EEA member states was extended by the Act, will be considered to have been lodged in due time.**
3. During the period of temporary measures under the Act, there is **a ban on lodging written and oral application and giving oral statements** in procedures conducted under the Foreigners Act and the Agreement (at administrative units, the Ministry of the Interior or a diplomatic representation or consulate of the Republic of Slovenia abroad). During this period, the only application that may be lodged is one that is examined in a summary fact-finding procedure.
4. In procedures conducted under the Foreigners Act and the Agreement, **written applications may be lodged electronically without secure electronic signature if the identity of the applicant can be established in another reliable way, or by ordinary or registered mail.**
5. In administrative matters under the Foreigners Act and the Agreement, oral hearings and other procedural acts where an official and a party or another participant are in direct contact shall not take place (this also applies to the taking of fingerprints at the authority's premises), except in urgent cases.

6. In procedures conducted under the Foreigners Act and the Agreement, personal service of decisions and other documents the serving of which triggers a time limit on the basis of Article 87 of the General Administrative Procedure Act shall not be carried out, with the exception of urgent cases. Furthermore, for the duration of temporary measures under the Act, the collection of residence permits and (permanent) residence registration certificates for citizens of the EEA member states issued in the card form shall not be possible at the authority's premises, except in urgent cases.

The above temporary measures as defined by the Act shall apply until the reasons for them cease to exist, which will be determined by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia by a decision published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, or until 1 July 2020 at the latest.