

Order No. 5793-A / 2020, of May 26th

A simplified procedure for examining applications for the granting and renewal of residence permits.

- this order mitigates the outcome from the health emergency caused by the COVID-19 disease, namely in the country's economic activity and in the labor relations between economic agents and their human resources,
- it adopts exceptional and temporary measures that will allow a recovery of the pending issues and an efficiency gain in the document management of foreign citizens, providing for a substantial reduction in service time at Foreigners and Borders Service (SEF).
- the new procedures are explained below.

• RESIDENCE PERMIT GRANT

√ The foreign citizen **must previously schedule a date to go to the service desk of SEF to submit the application for the granting of a residence** permit with visa exemption (articles 88th, 2nd and 89th, 2nd of Law no. 23/2007, of 4th of July, in its current wording/Foreigners Law);

√ **It is not necessary to submit new documents in addition to those already submitted with the letter of interest**, which prove the facts attested in them, regardless of their validity period, as long as they were valid on the date of submission.

- Previous Procedure: at the date of filing the application, the citizen had to prove that he/she maintained all the conditions to be granted a residence permit, attaching updated documents, despite having already submitted them during the submission of the letter of interest on the SAPA Portal.

√ Through the database, **SEF will confirm** that the citizen:

- haven't entered national territory after the interdiction period;
- is not indicated for the purpose of not being admitted to the Schengen Information System (SIS) by any member state of the European Union, nor indicated for the purpose of not being admitted to the SEF Integrated Information System (SIIS);
- was not convicted of a crime which, in Portugal, is punishable by a custodial sentence of more than one year, even if this has not been served or his execution has been suspended;
- is registered with the **tax administration** and, if applicable, if the **social security situation is regular, not considering, for the decision, the absence of contributions after March 2020.**

√ Requests for the granting of a residence permit that are pending for reasons other than the professional activity (with the exception of requests for a Residence Permit for investment activity/Golden Visa), must be accompanied by the document proving the purpose of residence.

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• RESIDENCE PERMIT RENEWAL

√ The foreign citizen **no longer needs to go to the SEF service point to submit the application for renewal of the residence permit, the request for renewal must simply be done online on the SEF Portal;**

- Previous Procedure: the citizen needed to make an appointment online or via phone and on the scheduled date had to go to the SEF post and bring all the necessary documents for the renewal.

√ Through the database information, SEF **will make all the security consultations to confirm** that the citizen:

- Is trustworthy, that is, the applicant has not been sentenced, alone or cumulatively, a sentence that exceed one year in prison, even if, in the case of conviction for a felony crime provided for in this law or related to it or for a crime of terrorism, for violent crime or for a particularly violent or highly organized crime, the respective execution has been suspended;
- Complies with the tax and social security obligations.

√ After paying the fees, the citizen will receive the Residence Permit at their fiscal address.

√ The foreign citizen who has an appointment at SEF to present in person their application for renewal of residence permit, must appear at the service point on the scheduled date unless otherwise indicated by SEF to submit the request online.

• OTHER IMPLEMENTED MEASURES

- Minors are exempted from paying the fees related to issuing residence permits following decisions on applications for the granting and renewal.

- Foreign citizens residing in Portugal will be provided an way to access to the digital public services, namely the possibility of joining the Digital Mobile Key at SEF service points.

• NOTES

- this order does **not affect the maintenance of the rights conferred by Order no. 3863-B / 2020, of 27th March**, during the entire period of assessment and processing of the respective processes.

- this order shall enter into force on **May 27th and is effective for one year** from that date.