

Country BRIEF

RUSSIA - Moscow

June 2, 2008

RED ALERT : - No new Moscow work permits permitted

The Moscow branch of the Federal Migration Service stopped accepting new applications for foreign work permits last week.

Foreign work permits are usually divided into those for citizens from other former Soviet republics and for citizens from the rest of the world.



The move will make it nearly impossible to

obtain official permission to hire foreign nationals in Moscow in the near future.

The migration service announced that as of May 26 2008 that it had temporarily stopped accepting new applications for work permits and did not supply any reason for the halt.

Applications submitted before May 26 2008 will be processed.

No information was forthcoming as to how long the suspension

will last nor was it not immediately clear whether the suspension affected all foreigners or just those from non-CIS coun-

A spokeswoman for the Moscow branch of the migration service declined to comment Friday.

Applications can still be sent in by mail – but not from Moscow or the Moscow region.



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tively, this means that Moscow-based companies cannot apply for work permits for their foreign employees.

It has been reported that the migration service ordered the suspension because of an internal restructuring and because it has nearly filled its annual

quota of work permits for foreigners in Moscow. The quota for non-CIS citizens is about 105,000 people this year.

A similar suspension occurred last September when local branches of the Federal Labor and Employment Service, which is the first stop in the application process, unexpectedly stopped accepting new applications for work permits.

The suspension – which was unexplained at the time – turned out to be connected to quota issues.

PLG|KGNM Russia contributed to this Country Brief—Red Alert

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Bureaucratic procedures are complicated and processing time is often longer than initially predicted.

Although Immigration Law is federal, there is often a Regional application of the law.

Being prepared for the conflicting information, document procurement and resulting delays, one can be less frustrated than if one expected all to go smoothly.

We hope the Country Brief—Red Alert – Russian will equip you with the basic facts you need to prepare for this procedure.



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