

Legal Alert

March 2020

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Update on restrictions introduced in Russia over coronavirus threat

Effective 16 March 2020, Moscow has introduced new restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.¹

Among these is a citywide ban, in force through 10 April 2020, on indoor public events with more than 50 participants.

Also, the list of countries considered to be high-risk for coronavirus has been expanded. Currently this list includes:

- China
- South Korea
- Iran
- All EU member states (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, Greece, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Ireland, Spain, Republic of Cyprus, Luxembourg, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, France, Finland, Croatia, Czech Republic, Sweden, Estonia)
- the USA
- the UK
- Norway
- Switzerland
- Belarus
- Moldova
- Ukraine
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Macedonia
- Serbia
- Albania
- Montenegro
- Monaco
- Liechtenstein
- Vatican
- San Marino
- Iceland

All employees arriving from these countries or living together with people who have arrived from these countries must self-isolate for 14 days. Employers operating in Moscow must deny such employees access to their workplaces and/or the company premises.

From 18 March to 1 May 2020, foreign nationals and stateless persons, including those arriving from the territory of Belarus as well as citizens of Belarus, will be temporarily restricted entry to the Russian Federation.² This restriction will not apply to certain categories of persons, including: holders of diplomatic visas, official visas, or ordinary private visas issued in connection with the death of a close relative; ship and railroad crews; individuals permanently residing in the RF (Russian nationals with internal IDs; and foreigners holding permanent residency permits).

¹ Decree of the Mayor of Moscow of 16 March 2020 N 21-UM "On Amending the Decree of the Mayor of Moscow of 5 March 2020 N 12-UM"

² Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of 16 March 2020 N 635-r.



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). For repeated or gross violations, authorities may suspend the business activities of a company for up to 90 days.³

Violations of Moscow city statutes protecting the population during natural and man-made emergency situations may result in company officers being administratively prosecuted with a fine of up to 5,000 rubles (approx. USD 75).⁴

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

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 if such negligent acts result in human death, by a prison term of up to five years.

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.

³ 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.

⁴ Article 3.18 of The Code of Administrative Offenses of the City of Moscow No. 45 of 21 November 2007