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REV 1

LIMITE

ASIM 206

NOTE

from: Presidency

to : Visa Working Party

Subject: Draft Council decision on common standards relating to filling in the uniform format for residence permits

Delegations will find annexed a draft Council decision on common standards relating to filling in the uniform format for residence permits as it stands following the meeting of the Visa Working Party on 28 October 1997.

At the meeting in question, most delegations entered a linguistic reservation because the document was available in French only.

The United Kingdom delegation also entered a general reservation on pages 2 to 5 of the document. Other delegations entered specific scrutiny reservations which are contained in the footnotes.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the joint action of 16 December 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on the European Union concerning a uniform format for residence permits, (97/11/JAI) ⁽¹⁾ and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas, to ensure the uniform aspect of the said format, it is necessary to establish common standards relating to filling in the format,

HAS DECIDED:

Article 1

The uniform format for residence permits shall, when it is issued, be filled in in accordance with the procedures contained in the Annex herewith.

Article 2

The Council shall examine, at least once a year, the procedures contained in the Annex hereto with a view to adapting them to technical progress.

Article 3

This decision shall enter into force the day after its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 7, 10.1.1997, p. 1.

1. Procedures for completion of the common reference area of the sticker in the uniform format of the residence permit

There are eight boxes to be filled in:

1. Permit number ⁽¹⁾

The number of the document shall appear in this space (protected by special security features and preceded by a letter code).

The numbering shall be done in letter-press printing. It concerns the ascending national numbering system whose characters are specific to the Member States and which are reserved for their exclusive use.

Nine-figure numbers are used. The letter(s) representing each of the Member States shall be put at the beginning. There shall be no blank space between the letter(s) representing each of the Member States and the numbering.

Example: A000000000

2. Name box

The surname and first name(s) shall be inserted here in order. The surnames and first name(s) on the document to which the sticker is attached must be exactly the same as those on the sticker.

3. Valid until box

The relevant date of expiry shall be entered in this box or, if necessary, a word or a code indicating unlimited validity.

Where an expiry date is entered, the date must be entered by means of three groups of two figures in the following order – two for the day, two for the month and two for the year – to be separated by a hyphen, and the first figure shall be a nought where the number is lower than ten (e.g. 15-01-96: 15 January 1996).

(1) The French and Spanish delegations entered a scrutiny reservation regarding the number of figures in the permit number.

4. Place and date of issue

This box shall indicate the place and date of issue of the residence permit.

The place of issue shall be the name of the city or territory where the permit was issued. It is not necessary to refer to the Member State which issued the permit since it appears elsewhere.

The date of issue shall be entered by means of three groups of two figures in the following order – two for the day, two for the month and two for the year – to be separated by a hyphen, and the first figure shall be a nought where the number is lower than ten (e.g. 15-01-96: 15 January 1996).

5. Category of permit

This box shall show the specific category of the residence permit issued by the Member State to the national of a third country.

This box should not be harmonized because of disparities between the laws of the Member States. However, the Member States should forward to the General Secretariat of the Council the various references they include in this box to enable the Secretariat to draw up a list for distribution to all Member States. Such a list could also be used as an additional device for discovering falsifications.

6. Remarks

Member States may enter in this box information and remarks for national use which are required by national provisions concerning nationals from third countries, including information on authorization to work.

Member States shall forward to the General Secretariat of the Council the various permanent references they include in this box to enable the Secretariat to draw up a list for distribution to all Member States. Such a list could also be used as an additional device for discovering falsifications.

7. Date, signature, authorization

Where necessary, the issuing authority may affix here its signature and its stamp and/or require the holder to affix his signature.

If this box is used, the date should be entered by means of three groups of two figures in the following order – two for the day, two for the month and two for the year – to be separated by a hyphen, and the first figure shall be a nought where the number is lower than ten (e.g. 15-01-96: 15 January 1996).

Where the Member State's legislation or practices require the affixing of an issuing-office stamp, the stamp should be located in the rectangle bounded on the left by the left edge of the sticker, on the right by the "Remarks" box, above by the emblem of the Member State and below by the machine-readable area.

It is also desirable that the stamp consist of a rectangle 1 cm high x 2,5 cm wide showing the name of the authority issuing the residence permit and the signature and/or the date. The signature and/or the date should be framed on each side by three parallel horizontal lines, the middle one being half as long as the other two.

8. Machine-readable area

The area reserved for machine reading shall be completed in accordance with the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). On the second line the number of the permit sticker or the passport number shall be recorded.

The machine-readable area shall consist of two lines of 36 characters (OCR B-10 characters/inches).

II. Procedures for completion of the common reference area of the sticker in the uniform format of the residence permit

There are twelve boxes to be filled in:

A. FRONT

1. Permit number ⁽¹⁾

The number of the document shall appear in this space (protected by special security features and preceded by a letter code).

The numbering shall be done in letter-press printing. It concerns the ascending national numbering system whose characters are specific to the Member States and which are reserved for their exclusive use.

Nine-figure numbers are used. The letter(s) representing each of the Member States shall be put at the beginning. There shall be no blank space between the letter(s) representing each of the Member States and the numbering.

Example: A000000000

2. Name box

The surname(s) and first name(s) shall be inserted here in order.

3. Valid until box

The corresponding date of expiry shall be entered in this box or, if necessary, a word or a code indicating unlimited validity.

Where an expiry date is entered, the date must be entered by means of three groups of two figures in the following order – two for the day, two for the month and two for the year – to be separated by a hyphen, and the first figure shall be a nought where the number is lower than ten (e.g. 15-01-96: 15 January 1996).

(1) The French and Spanish delegations entered a scrutiny reservation regarding the number of figures in the permit number.

4. Place and date of issue

This box shall indicate the place and date of issue of the residence permit.

The place of issue shall be the name of the city or territory where the permit was issued. It is not necessary to refer to the Member State which issued the permit since it appears elsewhere.

The date of issue shall be entered by means of three groups of two figures in the following order - two for the day, two for the month and two for the year - to be separated by a hyphen, and the first figure shall be a nought where the number is lower than ten (e.g. 15-01-96: 15 January 1996).

5. Category of permit

This box shall show the specific category of the residence permit issued by the Member State to the national of a third country.

This box should not be harmonized because of disparities between the laws of the Member States. However, the Member States should forward to the General Secretariat of the Council the various references they include in this box to enable the Secretariat to draw up a list for distribution to all Member States. Such a list could also be used as an additional device for discovering falsifications.

6. Remarks

Member States may enter in this box information and remarks for national use which are required by national provisions concerning nationals from third countries, including information on authorization to work.

Member States shall forward to the General Secretariat of the Council the various permanent references they include in this box to enable the Secretariat to draw up a list for distribution to all Member States. Such a list could also be used as an additional device for discovering falsifications.

7. Date, signature, authorization

Where necessary, the issuing authority may affix here its signature and its stamp and/or require the holder to affix his signature.

If this box is used, the date should be entered by means of three groups of two figures in the following order – two for the day, two for the month and two for the year – to be separated by a hyphen, and the first figure shall be a nought where the number is lower than ten (e.g. 15-01-96: 15 January 1996).

Where the Member State's legislation or practices require the affixing of an issuing-office stamp, the stamp should be located in the rectangle bounded on the left by the left edge of the sticker, on the right by the "Remarks" box, above by the emblem of the Member State and below by the machine-readable area.

It is also desirable that the stamp consist of a rectangle 1 cm high x 2,5 cm ⁽¹⁾ wide showing the name of the authority issuing the residence permit and the signature and/or the date. The signature and/or the date should be framed on each side by three parallel horizontal lines, the middle one being half as long as the other two.

B. BACK

Where there is a separate document, the following additional references shall appear on the back :

8. Date and place of birth

Reference to the place and date of birth of the holder of the residence permit shall be entered here.

The place of birth shall be the name of the city where the holder of the permit was born. Reference must be made to the country of birth since the holder's nationality may be different from the country of his birth.

(¹) For ID 1 format, these dimensions should be reduced by half.

The date of birth shall be entered by means of three groups of two figures in the following order – two for the day, two for the month and two for the year – to be separated by a hyphen, and the first figure shall be a nought where the number is lower than ten (e.g. 15-01-96; 15 January 1996).

9. Nationality ⁽¹⁾

The nationality of the holder of the residence permit shall be entered here.

Reference to the nationality shall be by reference to the name of the country of which the foreigner is a national.

e.g. Colombia

10. Sex

The sex of the holder of the residence permit shall be entered here.

The sex shall be indicated by a single capital letter.

e.g. F

Member States should forward to the General Secretariat of the Council the various references they include in this box to enable the Secretariat to draw up a list for distribution to all Member States. Such a list could also be used as an additional device for discovering falsifications.

11. Remarks

Member States may enter in this box information and remarks for national use which are required by national provisions concerning nationals from third countries, e.g. the holder's address.

(1) The Italian delegation proposed introducing ISO codes into this box. The French and Spanish delegations entered a scrutiny reservation on that proposal.

Member States should forward to the General Secretariat of the Council the various references they include in this box to enable the Secretariat to draw up a list for distribution to all Member States. Such a list could also be used as an additional device for discovering falsifications.

12. Machine-readable area

The area reserved for machine reading shall be completed in accordance with the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). On the second line the number of the permit sticker shall be recorded.

The machine-readable area shall consist of two lines of 36 characters (OCR 3-10 characters/inches).

