New Immigration Law enters into force

On 15 September 2026, the new Immigration Law entered into force, previously adopted by the Saeima (Parliament) on 20 August 2026. The new Immigration Law largely retains the principles of the previous regulatory framework but also introduces several important changes. Applicants for visas and residence permits will have to comply with stricter requirements concerning the languages in which documents may be submitted.

While the procedure for applying for long-stay visas remains unchanged, applicants for residence permits will be affected by significant changes. The law includes a section on the integration of foreigners, which provides for an obligation to learn the state language and complete a course on Latvian history and culture. A transitional period has been established for this obligation, and the provision will enter into force on 31 December 2027.

Source(s)

- Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs | Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde (15 September, 2026), Spēkā stājas jaunais Imigrācijas likums: galvenās izmaiņas un prasības [The new Immigration Law comes into force: main changes and requirements], https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/speka-stajas-jaunais-imigracijas-likums-galvenas-izmainas-un-prasibas

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15.09.2026
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Latvia
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Pact on Migration and Asylum, Asylum Migration Management Regulation, Eurodac Regulation, Screening Regulation, Reception Conditions Directive
Development type
Legislation

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