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## New legal rules for foreign citizens in the Republic of Angola

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Law no. 13/19 of 23 May was published on 23 May and approves the new Legal Rules on Foreign Citizens in the Republic of Angola (*Regime Jurídico dos Cidadãos Estrangeiros na República de Angola* - "**RJCE**"). As expected, the new law establishes the legal rules on entry, exit, stay and residence of foreign citizen in Angola.

The RJCE retains a large part of the previous legislation, especially on the procedure for obtaining the consular visa (a category that includes the work visa). Having said this, the RJCE does introduce some substantial changes.

First, by way of example, there is now a visa exemption for aircraft and ship crew, provided the requirements set out in the new law are respected. Furthermore, there are more stringent rules on compliance and liaison with the Migration and Foreigners Department. For example, airlines must communicate information relating to passengers wishing to travel to Angola.

Another important change is the replacement of the Privilege Visa by the Investor Visa, which is available to investors engaged in investment projects. The Investor Visa is granted in Angola.

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#### TYPES OF VISAS

TYPE OF VISA	PURPOSE	DURATION OF STAY
Diplomatic, Official and Courtesy Visa	Diplomatic, service or official visits	30 days, with the possibility of granting 90 days in justified cases
Transit Visa	To reach the country of destination	5 days
Tourist Visa	<ul> <li>Family reasons</li> <li>For business development</li> <li>To participate in scientific and technological activities</li> <li>Recreational, sports or cultural visit</li> </ul>	30 days
Short-Term Visa	Urgent reasons	10 days
Study Visa	For students or for placements in companies and/or public and private bodies	1 year
Medical Treatment Visa	Treatment in a hospital	180 days
Work Visa	To engage in a remunerated professional activity	365 days
Temporary Visa	<ul> <li>Fulfilment of a mission for a religious institution or NGO</li> <li>Carrying out of scientific research</li> <li>Accompanying a family member who holds a study, medical treatment, privilege or work visa</li> <li>Being a member of the family of the holder of a valid residence permit</li> <li>Being the spouse of an Angolan citizen</li> </ul>	365 days
Residence Permit Visa	For those who want to establish residence	90 days
Investor Territorial Visa	To implement an investment project	Up to 2 years
Border Territorial Visa	Allows a foreign citizen to enter Angola when, for unforeseen and duly substantiated reasons, they have not requested a visa from the appropriate consular authorities	15 days



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Most of the visa types identified above can be renewed upon compliance with the legal requirements.

Another no less important point is the new grounds for refusal of entry of foreign citizens into Angola. First, they include not having a return ticket to the country of origin, lack of proven means of subsistence, and reasons that jeopardise public health - if the foreign citizen has one of the prohibited infectious or parasitic contagious diseases.

Last, but not least, some changes have also been made to the migration offences. In addition to the previously established offences (e.g., allowing an unauthorised professional activity), we now have the new offences of (i) false information and damaging documents; (ii) obstruction of the actions of the migration agent; (iii) usurpation of the functions of migration agent; (iv) counterfeiting, use of stickers and stamps; (v) marriage or union of fact of convenience, all of which are punishable with a prison sentence of 1 to 12 years.



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