

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY INTO HUNGARY BY NON-HUNGARIAN CITIZENS

2 March 2021

The rules of travelling into Hungary are governed by the *Government Decree No 408/2020 (VIII. 30.) on the travel restrictions applicable during the epidemiological stand-by period*. As of 1 March 2021 the provisions applicable to the entry for business purposes of non-Hungarian citizens have been amended.

An entry without restrictions (quarantine and test) is permitted for non-Hungarian citizens who (i) travel from certain countries for business purpose, (ii) travel for business purposes between affiliated companies, (iii) travel with official passport, (iv) were already infected with COVID-19, or (v) are border crossing commuters.

1) UNRESTRICTED ENTRY TO HUNGARY (WITH NO QUARANTINE AND TEST)

a) ENTRY FOR BUSINESS PURPOSE - NON-AFFILIATED COMPANIES

If the non-Hungarian citizens enters Hungary from an EU, EEA, or EC member state, or a state with the same legal status as an EEA member state regarding the freedom of movement and residence, or a candidate state for membership of the European Union, or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or the United States of America, or Azerbaijan, or Bahrain, or the United Arab Emirates, or the Republic of India, or the Republic of Indonesia, or the State of Israel, or Japan, or Kazakhstan, or the People's Republic of China, or Kyrgyzstan, or the Republic of Korea, or the Russian Federation, or Singapore, or the Republic of Turkey, or Ukraine, or Uzbekistan and is a citizen of one of these states, or is entitled to reside in one of these states for more than 90 days, that person may enter the territory of Hungary without restrictions (quarantine and test) for business or economic purposes, if the purpose of travel is duly certified upon entry. The fact of a business travel or travel for economic purposes shall be certified by the following upon entry:

- an invitation letter issued by the Hungarian company (the company inviting) issued to the invited entrant indicating (i) the fact of the business trip, (ii) the place and date of the business trip, and (iii) the name and of the invited person; and
- trade registry extract or declaration of the non-Hungarian company, not older than 30 days, which certifies that the invited non-Hungarian citizen is the representative or employee of the said non-Hungarian company.

Non-Hungarian citizens entering from other countries for business or economic purposes may enter Hungary only with prior police authorization and restrictions (test and quarantine) pursuant to below Section 2) a).

b) BUSINESS TRAVEL BETWEEN AFFILIATED COMPANIES

Non-Hungarian citizens entering Hungary from the territory of any other country, who are travelling between intra-group companies (parent companies and subsidiaries or other affiliated companies being members of the same group of companies) for the purpose of making business, may also enter Hungary **without medical examination, preliminary permission issued by the police, or mandatory quarantine** on condition that the person concerned certifies upon entry that he/she travels between the intra-group companies for the purpose of making business. The fact of a business trip between intra-group (affiliated) companies can be certified by the following upon entry:

- an invitation letter issued by the Hungarian company being an intra-group company, indicating (i) the fact of the business trip, (ii) the place and date of the business trip, and (iii) the name and the position held by the invited person in said company, OR, the capacity of the person concerned as an employee of the company; and

- the company extract or a statement of the Hungarian company, which evidences that the person entering Hungary is the managing director or the employee of the Hungarian company OR the company extract of the foreign intra-group company, in the absence of an extract, a simple statement of the foreign intra-group company which (i) certifies that the person entering Hungary is a managing director or an employee of the foreign intra-group company AND (ii) verifies also that the foreign company is the member of the same group of companies as the Hungarian host company.

c) **ENTRY WITH OFFICIAL PASSPORT**

Persons entering with an official passport are automatically exempted from the travel restrictions. An official passport is (i) a diplomatic passport, (i) a foreign service passport, (iii) a service passport and (iv) a seaman's service passport.

d) **PERSONS ALREADY INFECTED WITH COVID-19**

Travel restrictions do not apply to persons who, upon entering Hungary, can certify that they have already been infected with COVID-19 within 6 months prior to the date of crossing the border.

e) **COMMUTERS**

Citizens of neighboring countries of Hungary, namely the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Austria, the Slovak Republic, Ukraine, Romania and the Republic of Serbia, may enter the territory of Hungary within a distance of 30 kilometers from the state border for a maximum period of 24 hours by staying within 30 kilometers of the state border and leaving the territory of Hungary within 24 hours.

2) **ENTRY TO HUNGARY WITH RESTRICTIONS (WITH TEST AND/OR QUARANTINE)**

a) **WITH POLICE AUTHORIZATION, WITH QUARANTINE**

Local police authority **may grant entry** into Hungary upon request submitted before travelling to Hungary if the applicant proves that the entry is for a legitimate reason, such as:

- participation in administrative proceedings as certified by a Hungarian court or authority;
- receiving healthcare evidenced by a referrer of a medical institution or other appropriate certificate;
- fulfillment of an examination obligation on the basis of an enrolment or an academic relationship certified by the educational institution;
- travel in passenger traffic for the purpose of the conduction a transport activity, certified by an employer's certificate, with the aim of arriving at the place of dispatch (place of commencement of the transport task) or returning in passenger traffic after having completed such activity;
- participation in family events (marriage, christening, funeral);
- caring after a relative;
- participation in international related church events of major importance; or
- other justifiable reason not listed above.

The application shall indicate the purpose of entry, specify the identity document to be used for crossing the border, indicate the identification number of the document and include a copy of the document certifying the purpose of entry.

The application can be submitted electronically through the police.hu webpage, in Hungarian or English, and it may be submitted by a legal representative or a proxy indicated in a power of attorney included in a private document with full probative force. The **original copy** of the document submitted in order to prove the validity of the application shall be presented by the exempted person upon entering the territory

of Hungary at the request of the police officer. The omission to do so, or in case of doubt regarding the authenticity of the document, the granting of entry shall be refused.

The request will be rejected by the police if there is any doubt about the purpose of the entry or if the entry is unsafe for epidemiological, public security or national security reasons.

If the policy approves the request, upon entering Hungary the applicant person undergoes a medical examination:

- In case of suspicion of infection, the person **may not enter Hungary.**
- In case there is **no** suspicion of infection, the person shall be placed in quarantine or official home quarantine designated by the epidemiological authority for **10 days.** Exemption from quarantine is granted after **two** negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests conducted within 5 days with 48 hours difference. As first SARS-CoV-2 PCR, an examination taken in a Schengen country, the USA or Canada also has to be also taken into account, if the results are proved by an English or Hungarian document.

b) **PERSONS ARRIVING TO SPORT AND CULTURAL EVENTS**

Non-Hungarian athletes, invitees and sport professionals (excluding spectators, fans) may enter the territory of Hungary for the purpose of taking part on sport events held in Hungary if they can provide *two* negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests made within **5 days prior to entry** with at least 48 hours difference.

Non-Hungarian athletes, invitees and sport professionals (excluding spectators, fans) may also enter the territory of Hungary for the purpose of taking part on sport events held in Hungary if they can provide *one* negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR test made **within 3 days prior to the sport event.**

Performer, technical staff of cultural events taking place in Hungary may enter the territory of Hungary, if they can provide *two* negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests made within **5 days prior to entry** with at least 48 hours difference. Such persons can enter the territory of Hungary even if **3 days prior the sport event or cultural event** the person certifies *one* negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR test with a Hungarian or English document.

The spectator of an international sport event held in Hungary or a cultural even can enter the territory of Hungary during which shall endure medical examination – with showing the tickets and by providing *one* negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR test with a Hungarian or English document. Such persons must leave the territory of Hungary within 72 hours after entry. **The person may not enter** Hungary if, as a result of the medical examination, there is a risk of infection, or the person does not provide the ticket or the validity of the ticket is questionable.

c) **PERSONS SUBJECT TO THE SAME RULES AS HUNGARIAN CITIZENS**

Pursuant to the travel provisions, the following persons can enter the territory of Hungary with the same conditions as the Hungarian citizens:

- persons entitled to permanent residence in Hungary and their family members, if they prove this right with document, or
- persons with valid residence permit for a period exceeding 90 days, entitling that person to stay in the territory of Hungary, if the residence permit is shown when entering the territory of Hungary,
- competitors or sport specialists of a Hungarian sports organization, if entering the territory of Hungary after participating at an international sports event held abroad,
- persons participating at an international sports event held abroad with an invitation or delegation issued by a Hungarian sports organization, if the person enters the territory of Hungary after participating in an international sports event held abroad.
- employees of Hungarian cultural institutions, if entering the territory of Hungary as a performer or technical staff of a cultural event held abroad.

Such persons may be subject to medical examination when entering the territory of Hungary and may be placed in quarantine or official home quarantine designated by the epidemiological authority for 10 days, both if the medical examination shows suspicion of infection and also in case there is no suspicion of infection.

Exemption from quarantine is granted by the epidemiological authority after two negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests conducted within 5 days of entry, with 48 hours difference between the two tests. As first SARS-CoV-2 PCR, an examination taken in a Schengen country, the USA or Canada also has to be also taken into account, if the results are proved by an English or Hungarian document.

Travelling back to Hungary without restrictions following business travel outside Hungary: If the travel to an EU, EEA, or EC member state, or a state with the same legal status as an EEA member state regarding the freedom of movement and residence, or a candidate state for membership of the European Union, or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or the United States of America, or Azerbaijan, or Bahrain, or the United Arab Emirates, or the Republic of India, or the Republic of Indonesia, or the State of Israel, or Japan, or Kazakhstan, or the People's Republic of China, or Kyrgyzstan, or the Republic of Korea, or the Russian Federation, or Singapore, or the Republic of Turkey, or Ukraine, or Uzbekistan is made for business or economic purposes, non-Hungarian citizens subject to same rules as Hungarian citizens may travel back to Hungary without restrictions (quarantine and test) if such travel is duly certified upon entering Hungary. The fact of a business travel or travel for economic purposes shall be certified by the following upon entry:

- date of travel outside Hungary
- an invitation letter issued by the foreign company (the company inviting) issued to the invited travelling outside Hungary indicating (i) the fact of the business trip, (ii) the place and date of the business trip, and (iii) the name and of the invited person; and
- certification of status of non-Hungarian citizenship subject to same rules as Hungarian one and position held by him/her in the Hungarian company.

3) OTHER PROVISIONS

a) **DIFFERENT RULES REGARDING THE ACT I OF 2007 ON THE ADMISSION AND RESIDENCE OF PERSONS WITH THE RIGHT OF FREE MOVEMENT AND RESIDENCE**

The Aliens Police Authority shall execute the expulsion of the EEA national or a family member of an EEA national who violated the epidemic control regulations pursuant to Section 361 of the Criminal Code (i. e. infringement of the rules of quarantine, epidemiological supervision or control) or whose entry into the territory of Hungary and residence represents a threat to national security, public security or public policy (pursuant to Section 40(2)(c) of the Act I of 2007 on the admission and residence of persons with the right of free movement and residence) by official accompaniment. The EEA national or a family member of an EEA national cannot request immediate legal protection in the administrative court procedure initiated against such decision.

b) **DIFFERENT RULES REGARDING THE ACT II OF 2007 ON THE ADMISSION AND RIGHT OF RESIDENCE OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS**

Third country nationals, who violated the epidemic control regulations pursuant to Section 361 of the Criminal Code (i. e. infringement of the rules of quarantine, epidemiological supervision or control) or whose entry into the territory of Hungary and residence represents a threat to national security, public security or public policy (pursuant to section 43(2)(d) of the Act II of 2007 on the admission and right of residence of third-country nationals) cannot request immediate legal protection in the administrative court procedure initiated against such decision.