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Republic of Latvia

Cabinet

Regulation No. 521

Adopted 5 July 2011

Procedures for the Receipt and Examination of Applications for Naturalisation

*Issued pursuant to Section 17,
Paragraph two of the Citizenship Law*

1. This Regulation prescribes the procedures for the receipt and examination of applications for naturalisation (hereinafter – application).
2. Applications shall be received and examined by a division of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs – the Naturalisation Board.
3. A person wishing to be naturalised, upon presenting a personal identification document, with the intermediation of the regional division of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (hereinafter – Division) shall in person submit an application (Annex 1) and the following documents to the Naturalisation Board:
 - 3.1. a certification regarding the existence of a legal source of income;
 - 3.2. a document regarding payment of the State fee, or a document, based on which a person is exempt from payment of the State fee; and
 - 3.3. a photograph (3 x 4 cm).
4. If a person is a non-citizen of Latvia or a stateless person, when completing an application he or she shall sign a certification that he or she is not a citizen (national) of another country.
5. When completing an application, the person shall sign a pledge of loyalty to the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter – pledge).
6. If a person wishes that his or her application is examined outside of the general order in accordance with Section 14, Paragraph two of the Citizenship Law, in addition to the documents referred to in Paragraph 3 of this Regulation he or she shall submit a document which confirms the compliance of the person with the conditions referred to in Section 14, Paragraph two of the Citizenship Law.
7. If a person who is being naturalised or who has acquired Latvian citizenship through naturalisation procedures, requests that his or her minor child up to the age of 15 years is admitted to citizenship, he or she shall also complete an application for the naturalisation of the child (Annex 2) and present the birth certificate of the child, if the Division is unable to ascertain the representation rights of the child in any other way. The application for the naturalisation of the child shall be signed by both parents or a person shall present a document certifying that the person has the right to exercise the trusteeship rights of the child without

the other parent. A minor (between the age of 14 and 15 years) shall sign a certification that he or she does not object to being admitted to Latvian citizenship.

8. If the application referred to in Paragraph 7 of this Regulation is not completed in the Division, the signatures of the parents of the child shall be notarially certified.

9. If the Naturalisation Board determines that the minor child of a person might have developed a legal connection with another country (born, resided, one of the parents is a citizen of another country), the person shall submit a document certifying that his or her minor is not a citizen of another country, or a documentary certification that it is not possible to acquire such document.

10. When the application and all the necessary documents have been submitted and the person has signed the pledge and certification that he or she is not a citizen (national) of another country (where necessary), the person shall be sent for a test for fluency in the Latvian language and a test for knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the National Anthem and the history of Latvia, if the person is required to take the referred to tests in accordance with the Citizenship Law. A person shall only be sent for the test for knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the National Anthem and the history of Latvia if, in addition to the documents referred to in Paragraph 3 of this Regulation, the person presents one of the documents referred to in the Cabinet regulations regarding the test for fluency in the Latvian language and a test for knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the National Anthem and the history of Latvia specified in the Citizenship Law and which gives the right not to repeat the test for fluency in the Latvian language.

11. If not all the documents referred to in Paragraph 3 or 9 of this Regulation have been submitted or if the information submitted in the appended documents do not comply with the requirements specified in the Citizenship Law, the person refuses to sign the pledge or has not fulfilled all the conditions referred to in Paragraph 4, 7 or 8 of this Regulation, the Naturalisation Board shall take a decision regarding refusal to issue the relevant administrative act. The person may dispute this refusal by submitting an application to the head of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs.

12. A person to whom specific procedures for testing of knowledge have been specified in accordance with Section 21, Paragraph two of the Citizenship Law, in addition to the documents referred to in Paragraph 3 of this Regulation, shall present a certificate of Group I disability (if such is at the disposal of the person) or a certification issued by the State Medical Commission for Expert-Examination of Health and Working Ability (if such is at the disposal of the person), on the basis of which the respective person should be granted the right to exemptions from testing of knowledge or exemption from testing.

13. It shall be deemed that a person has submitted all the necessary documents in accordance with Section 17, Paragraph two of the Citizenship Law if he or she has:

13.1. passed the test for fluency in the Latvian language or has presented the documents referred to in Paragraph 10 or 12 of this Regulation;

13.2. passed the test for knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the National Anthem and the history of Latvia or presented the documents referred to in Paragraph 12 of this Regulation;

13.3. submitted the documents referred to in Paragraph 16 of this Regulation, if it is necessary.

14. In order to verify the information provided by a person and the conformity thereof to the requirements referred to in Section 11 of the Citizenship Law, the Naturalisation Board shall request information from the following institutions:

- 14.1. the Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior;
- 14.2. the Centre for Documentation of the Consequences of Totalitarianism; and
- 14.3. State security institutions.

15. The Naturalisation Board may also request the necessary information from other State administrative institutions.

16. If a person is not entitled to acquire Latvian citizenship through naturalisation due to the condition referred to in Section 9, Paragraph one or Section 12, Paragraph one, Clause 7 of the Citizenship Law, the respective person shall be invited to submit an expatriation permit if it is provided for by the laws of the respective state, or a document certifying the loss of the citizenship (nationality).

17. The Naturalisation Board shall suspend the examination of an application in the following cases:

- 17.1. a person is being held criminally liable;
- 17.2. an investigation case regarding co-operation of the person with the Committee of State Security of the former U.S.S.R. (L.S.S.R.) (hereinafter – Security Committee) has been initiated;
- 17.3. an answer has been received from the Centre for Documentation of the Consequences of Totalitarianism that information is at the disposal of the Centre regarding the fact that the person has been an employee, an informer, an agent or safehouse keeper of the Security Committee or of the security service, intelligence service or other special service of another foreign state; or
- 17.4. within six months after receipt of the invitation referred to in Paragraph 16 of this Regulation the person does not submit a document certifying the loss of citizenship (nationality) or a notice regarding the renunciation of the former citizenship (nationality) or an expatriation permit if it is provided for by the laws of the respective state.

18. The Naturalisation Board shall take a decision regarding refusal to issue an administrative act in the following cases:

- 18.1. upon the request of the person;
- 18.2. if the person has acquired Latvian citizenship through registration procedures or for meritorious service for the benefit of Latvia during the examination of an application;
- 18.3. if a year has passed since the suspension of the examination of the application in the case referred to in Sub-paragraph 17.3 of this Regulation and a person has not turned to the Prosecutor's Office with an application, in which he or she requests to examine the fact regarding co-operation with the Security Committee;
- 18.4. if a year has passed since the suspension of the examination of the application due to the reason referred to in Sub-paragraph 17.4 of this Regulation;
- 18.5. if the person does not arrive for the test for fluency in the Latvian language or the knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the National Anthem and the history of Latvia and does not submit documents certifying that he or she did not attend the test due to justifiable reasons within two months;

18.6. if the person does not pass the test for fluency in the Latvian language or the test for knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the National Anthem and the history of Latvia provided for in the Citizenship Law, three times or refuses to take it; or

18.7. a minor who becomes naturalised in accordance with Section 15 of the Citizenship Law has reached 15 years of age before the Cabinet has issued an order regarding admittance to citizenship through naturalisation.

19. The Naturalisation Board shall take a decision regarding refusal of naturalisation if:

19.1. the person has provided false information;

19.2. it is detected after examination of an application that there is no lawful basis for naturalisation or it has ceased to exist; or

19.3. when taking the test for knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the National Anthem and the history of Latvia or the test for fluency in the Latvian language, the person has violated the rules of the test.

20. If the person complies with all the conditions referred to in Section 12 of the Citizenship Law, the Naturalisation Board shall prepare a draft Cabinet order regarding the admittance of the person to the citizenship of Latvia through naturalisation and inform the person accordingly.

21. Cabinet Regulation No. 34 of 2 February 1999, *Procedures for the Acceptance and Examination of Applications for Naturalisation* (Latvijas Vēstnesis, 1999, No. 32/33; 2000, No. 435/437; 2001, No. 7, 99; 2003, No. 63, 161; 2004, No. 20; 2005, No. 135; 2006, No. 128; 2010, No. 38), is repealed.

Prime Minister

V. Dombrovskis

Acting for the Minister for the Interior,
Minister for Justice

A. Štokenbergs

Application for Naturalisation

(The application shall be completed in legible form. Corrections or deletions are not permissible)

to the Naturalisation Board

Submitted on _____ 20_____
to the _____ division
of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs
Registration No. _____

1. Identification data

1.1. Personal identity number

1.2. Given name (names)

1.3. Surname

1.4. Surname at birth

1.5. All previous given names, surnames

(if they have been changed)

1.6. Place of birth

(State, administrative unit)

(town/populated area)

1.7. Ethnicity

(if the person wishes to indicate it)

1.8. Current nationality

(if there are also other citizenships,
please indicate)

1.9. E-mail (if the person wishes to receive information electronically that a draft Cabinet order has been prepared regarding the admittance of the person to citizenship of Latvia through naturalisation, without using a secure electronic signature)

2. Addresses of the place of residence in the previous five years

3. I wish to acquire Latvian citizenship in accordance with Section 14, Paragraph _____ of the Citizenship Law

4. Education:

4.1. basic secondary higher

4.2. if education has been acquired in Latvian as the study language, indicate the name of the educational institution and the date of graduation

5. I certify that:

- 5.1. I have not, by unconstitutional methods, acted against the independence of the Republic of Latvia, the democratic parliamentary structure of the State or the existing State power in Latvia;
- 5.2. I have not after 4 May 1990 propagated fascist, chauvinist, national-socialist, communist or other totalitarian ideas or incited ethnic or racial hatred or discord;
- 5.3. I am not an official of State power, administration or law-enforcement institutions of a foreign state;
- 5.4. I do not serve in the armed forces, internal military forces, security service or police (militia) of a foreign state;
- 5.5. I am not an employee, informer, agent or safehouse keeper of the Committee of State Security of the former U.S.S.R. (L.S.S.R.) or of the security service, intelligence service or other special service of another foreign state;
- 5.6. I have not after 13 January 1991 worked against the Republic of Latvia in the C.P.S.U. [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] (L.C.P. [Latvian Communist Party]), the Working People's International Front of the Latvian S.S.R., the United Council of Labour Collectives, the Organisation of War and Labour Veterans, the All-Latvia Salvation of Society Committee or their regional committees or the Union of Communists of Latvia;
- 5.7. I have not chosen the Republic of Latvia as my place of residence directly after demobilisation from the armed forces of the U.S.S.R. (Russia) or the internal military forces of the U.S.S.R. (Russia) after 17 June 1940 (certification does not apply to persons who, on the day of their conscription into service or enlistment, permanently resided in Latvia);
- 5.8. I have not been punished in Latvia or any other state for committing an offence which is also a crime in Latvia at the time the Citizenship Law comes into force in Latvia; and
- 5.9. I have not had Latvian citizenship withdrawn during the preceding five years.

6. I am aware that Latvian citizenship will be withdrawn if:

- 6.1. I acquire the citizenship (nationality) of another state without submitting an application regarding the renunciation of Latvian citizenship;
- 6.2. I serve in the armed forces, internal military forces, security service, police (militia) or am employed in a judicial institution of a foreign state, without permission from the Cabinet;
- 6.3. upon becoming naturalised I have intentionally provided false information about myself and thus acquired Latvian citizenship without justification.

7. I append the following documents:

_____ 20 _____

(signature)

8. Pledge of loyalty to the Republic of Latvia

I, _____ ,
(given name (names), surname)

born _____ ,
(the place and date of birth)

pledge that I will be loyal only to the Republic of Latvia.

I undertake to fulfil the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Latvia in good faith and with all vigour to protect them. I undertake, without regard to my life, to defend the independence of the State of Latvia and to live and work in good faith, in order to increase the prosperity of the State of Latvia and of the people.

_____._____ 20_____

(signature)

9. Certification

(Only to be completed by non-citizens of Latvia or stateless persons)

I, _____ ,
(given name (names), surname)

certify that I am not a citizen (national) of another country.

_____._____ 20_____

(signature)

Application received by _____

(position, given name, surname, signature)

Acting for the Minister for the Interior,
Minister for Justice

A. Štokenbergs

Application for Naturalisation of a Minor Child up to 15 Years of Age

to the Naturalisation Board

Submitted on _____ 20____
to the _____ division
of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs
Registration No. _____

(given name, surname of the submitter)

(personal identity number)

(address)

I request to admit my minor child to Latvian citizenship through naturalisation in accordance with Section 15, Paragraph one of the Citizenship Law.

1. Identification data of the child

1.1. Personal identity number

1.2. Given name (names)

1.3. Surname

1.4. Surname at birth

1.5. Place of birth

(State, administrative unit)

(town/populated area)

1.6. Ethnicity

(if the person wants to indicate it)

1.7. Current nationality

(if there are also other citizenships, please, indicate)

_____ 20____

(given name, surname and signature of mother)

(given name, surname and signature of father)

2. Certification

I, the minor child (between the age of 14 and 15 years) _____

(given name (names), surname)

certify that I do not object to admittance to Latvian citizenship.

_____. _____ 20_____

(signature of the child)

Application received by _____

(position, given name, surname and signature)

Acting for the Minister for the Interior,
Minister for Justice

A. Štokenbergs