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Republic of Latvia

Cabinet

Regulation No. 522

Adopted 5 July 2011

Regulations Regarding Testing of Fluency in the Latvian Language and the Knowledge of the Basic Principles of the Constitution, the Text of the National Anthem and the History of Latvia as prescribed by the Citizenship Law

Issued pursuant to Section 12, Paragraph four, Section 19 and Section 21, Paragraph two of the Citizenship Law

I. General Provisions

1. This Regulation prescribes the procedures for testing of fluency in the Latvian language (hereinafter – language fluency) and 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 (hereinafter – knowledge) and exemptions from taking the tests as prescribed by the Citizenship Law.
2. The language fluency and knowledge shall be tested by a commission (hereinafter – Commission) set up by the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (hereinafter – Office). The Commission shall be composed of officials of the Office. Persons who have received a consent from the head of the Office may also participate in the language fluency and knowledge test in the status of observer
3. A person who takes the language fluency or language knowledge test (hereinafter – applicant), upon arrival for the test, shall present a personal identification document.
4. During the language fluency and language test the applicant shall be forbidden to converse with other persons, use teaching aids, electronic means of communication or other aids.
5. The applicant shall take the language fluency and knowledge test at the place and time indicated by the Office.
6. If the applicant cannot attend the language fluency or language test due to a justifiable reason, he or she shall, within two months after the relevant test, submit documents to the Office, which certify that the applicant has not attended the test due to a justifiable reason. After evaluation of these documents the Office shall determine another time for taking the language fluency or knowledge test.
7. If the applicant does not take the language fluency or knowledge test or refuses to answer questions, he or she may take the language fluency test for the second and third time not sooner than three months after the previous test, but the knowledge test may be taken for the

second and third time not sooner than one month after the previous test within the framework of the process of evaluating one application for acquiring the Latvian citizenship.

8. Prior to the language fluency and language test the Commission shall acquaint the applicant with the test procedures.

9. After evaluating the answers of the applicant, the Commission shall fill in the test sheet (Annex), indicating in the column “Evaluation” whether the test has been “passed” or “not passed”, and acquaint the applicant with the results of the language fluency and knowledge test. The applicant shall acknowledge with a signature that he or she has acquainted himself or herself with the test results.

10. The language fluency test shall not be taken in the Office by an applicant who presents one of the following documents:

10.1. an official language fluency certificate, which has been issued after 1 September 2009, and certifies that the applicant has acquired a Level B or C in an official language test for the performance of professional and official duties, receipt of a permanent residence permit and acquiring the status of a long-term resident of the European Community;

10.2. a document, which certifies passing of the centralised examination of the Latvian language (in the accredited educational programme for ethnic minorities for Grade 9) or the centralised examination of the Latvian language and literature (in the accredited educational programme for ethnic minorities for Grade 12) according to the Level A, B, C or D; or

10.3. a document, which certifies that the person has acquired a basic, secondary or higher education in an educational institution where the language of instruction is the Latvian language.

II. Language Fluency Test

11. An applicant shall take the language fluency test within two months after submission of the documents necessary for the acquisition of the Latvian citizenship to the Office.

12. The language fluency test shall consist of two sections – the written section and the oral section.

13. The Commission shall evaluate the language fluency of the applicant in the following skills:

13.1. listening to and understanding speech;

13.2. reading with understanding;

13.3. executing a written task;

13.4. conversing on topics of a social nature.

14. The skills of the applicant referred to in Sub-paragraphs 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 of this Regulation shall be tested in the written section of the language fluency test. The skills of listening to and understanding speech, as well as reading with understanding shall be demonstrated by the applicant by providing written answers to questions.

15. The time provided for the written section of the language fluency test section shall be 90 minutes.

16. After completion of the written section of the language fluency test the applicant shall hand in the work to the Commission for evaluation.

17. The skills of the applicant referred to in Sub-paragraph 13.4 of this Regulation shall be tested in the oral section of the language fluency test. The Commission shall interview the applicant regarding topics of a social nature and make an audio recording of his or her answers.

18. The time provided for the oral section of the language fluency test shall be up to 15 minutes.

19. The applicant who has reached the age of 65 years is entitled to take the test of the skills referred to in Sub-paragraphs 13.1 and 13.2 of this Regulation orally. The Commission shall make an audio recording of the answers made by the applicant.

20. The language fluency test shall be deemed to have been passed if the applicant has gained for each skill referred to by Paragraph 13 of this Regulation at least 16 points from the possible maximum number of points to be gained – 25 points.

III. Knowledge Test

21. After submission of the documents necessary for acquiring Latvian citizenship to the Office and up until the beginning of the knowledge test an applicant shall select the method, by which the knowledge test will be taken, – in writing or orally.

22. The applicant shall use the Latvian language to take the knowledge test.

23. The applicant shall take the knowledge test within two months after taking the language fluency test. If the applicant does not have to take the language fluency test, the two-month term for the knowledge test shall be counted from the day when the documents necessary for acquiring Latvian citizenship were submitted to the Office.

24. If the applicant takes the knowledge test in written form, he or she shall fill in the knowledge test, which includes questions regarding the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia and the history of Latvia, but the knowledge of the text of the National Anthem shall be confirmed by choice – either in writing or orally.

25. If the applicant chooses to confirm the knowledge of the text of the National Anthem orally, he or she shall do so individually at the time designated by the Commission after all the applicants have completed the knowledge test.

26. The time provided for the written testing of the knowledge shall be 45 minutes. If the applicant takes the knowledge test in written form, but confirms knowledge of the text of the National Anthem orally, the time provided for completion of the test shall be 30 minutes, for testing knowledge of the text of the National Anthem – not more than 15 minutes. The Commission shall make an audio recording of the answers made by the applicant.

27. If the applicant takes the knowledge test orally, he or she shall confirm knowledge of the text of the National Anthem and answer the questions inserted in the selected envelope regarding the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia and the history of Latvia. The Commission shall make an audio recording of the answers made by the applicant.

28. The time provided for an oral knowledge test shall be 45 minutes (for preparation of the answer – 30 minutes, for the answer – not more than 15 minutes).

29. The written knowledge test shall be deemed to have been passed, if the applicant has gained at least 7 points from the possible maximum number of points to be gained – 10 points in the test of knowledge of the history of Latvia, has gained at least 5 points from the possible maximum number of points to be gained – 8 in the test of knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, has gained at least 1 point from the possible maximum number of points to be gained – 2 in the test of knowledge of the text of the National Anthem.

30. The oral knowledge test shall be deemed to have been passed, if the applicant has gained at least 2 points from the possible maximum number of points to be gained – 4 points in the test of knowledge of the history of Latvia, has gained at least 2 points from the possible maximum number of points to be gained – 4 in the test of knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, has gained at least 1 point from the possible maximum number of points to be gained – 2 in the test of knowledge of the text of the National Anthem.

IV. Language Fluency and Knowledge Test for Applicants who have been Declared Disabled

31. The language fluency test and the knowledge test shall not be taken by the following persons:

- 31.1. persons with a Group I disability
- 31.2. persons with a Group II disability and advanced mental illness;
- 31.3. persons with Group II and III disability with bilateral deafness or deaf-muteness.

32. Visually impaired persons of Group II and III shall not take the knowledge test.

33. The written section of the language fluency test shall not be taken by the following persons:

- 33.1. persons with a Group II and III disability who do not have the right arm or right hand (for a left-handed person – left arm or left hand accordingly);
- 33.2. visually impaired persons of Group II and III.

34. The test of the skill referred to in Sub-paragraph 13.4 of this Regulation shall not be taken by speech-impaired persons of Group II and III.

35. The test of the skills referred to in Sub-paragraphs 13.1 and 13.4 of this Regulation shall not be taken by hearing-impaired persons of Group II and III.

36. The head of the Office or his or her authorised person, observing the regulatory enactments in the field of language fluency tests, has the right to specify exemption from the language fluency and knowledge test for an applicant who has been declared disabled and who has submitted to the State Medical Commission for Expert-Examination of Health and Working Ability a certificate regarding health impairments, which may be deemed as the basis for granting exemption.

V. Decisions of the Office

37. If another person arrives to a language fluency or knowledge test instead of the applicant, the Commission shall take a decision not to permit such person to take the relevant test.

38. If before the end of the language fluency or knowledge test it becomes known to the Commission or the Commission determines that a person other than the applicant has taken the test, the Commission shall take a decision to declare the results of the language fluency or knowledge test null and void.

39. If the applicant violates the conditions referred to in Paragraph 4 of this Regulation, the Commission shall take a decision to terminate the language fluency or language test of the applicant.

40. The applicant has the right, within one month, to appeal a decision by the Commission by submitting a relevant submission to the head of the Office.

VI. Closing Provision

41. Cabinet Regulation No. 353 of 29 May 2007, *Regulations Regarding Testing of the Latvian Language Fluency and the Knowledge of the Basic Principles of the Constitution, the Text of the National Anthem and the History of Latvia as prescribed by the Citizenship Law (Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2007, No. 88, 2010, No. 33)*, is repealed.

Prime Minister

V. Dombrovskis

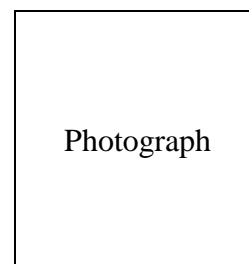
Acting for the Minister for the Interior,
Minister for Justice

A. Štokenbergs

Test Sheet

(given name, surname of the applicant)

(personal identity number)



Place for a seal

1. Testing Fluency in the Latvian Language

Date _____

No.	Skill to be tested	Evaluation (passed/failed)	Signature of the applicant
1.1.	Listening		
1.2.	Reading		
1.3.	Written work		
1.4.	Interview.		
Total evaluation of language skills			

Official of the Office

(given name, surname and signature)

Official of the Office

(given name, surname and signature)

Official of the Office

(given name, surname and signature)

2. Testing of 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

Date _____

No.	Knowledge to be tested	Evaluation (passed/failed)	Signature of the applicant
2.1.	Text of the National Anthem		
2.2.	History of Latvia		
2.3.	Knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia		
Testing of 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			

Official of the Office

(given name, surname and signature)

Official of the Office

(given name, surname and signature)

Official of the Office

(given name, surname and signature)

Acting for the Minister for the Interior,
Minister for Justice

A.Štokenbergs