

Federal Law No (6) for 1973
Concerning Immigration and Residence

We, Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, the President of the United Arab Emirates,

Upon reviewing the provisions of the Provisional Constitution,

And based on the proposal of the Minister of Interior, the approval of the Council of Ministers the Federal National Council, the approval of the Supreme Council of the Union,

Issue the following law:

Part One
Entry of Aliens

Article (1)

Pursuant to this law an alien shall be any one who is not a national of the United Arab Emirates.

Article (2)

With due regard to other provisions set forth in this law, no alien may enter the country in any way without a valid passport or a travel document or a visa or an entry permission or a valid residence permit.

The subject of countries who may be exempted from permission of entry are those who belong to countries for which a decree was issued based on the recommendations of the Minister of the Interior based on the principle of reciprocity.

Article (3)

No alien may enter or leave the country except through the points specified by a decision of the Minister of Interior and after stamping the passport or the travel document.

Aliens shall also adhere to the provisions of the laws and regulations applicable in the points of exit and entry.

Article (4)

Captains of vessels, airplanes and drivers of cars and other means of transport, shall when arriving into the country or leaving it present to the officer in charge a manifest containing names and particulars of the crews of vessels, airplanes or vehicles and their passengers. They have to inform the authorities concerned with the names of those who do not have passports and those whom they have doubts about the authenticity or non validity of their passports, and they shall have to prevent such passengers from leaving vessel, airplane or vehicle or any other means of transport or getting on board.

Part Two

Entry Visas & Permissions

Article (5)

Entry permissions and visas shall be issued, renewed and cancelled in accordance with the provisions of this law, and the rules and instructions issued by the Minister of Interior.

Article (6)

The Directorate of Nationality and Immigration shall be responsible for the issuance of entry permissions and visas. Consulates representing the country abroad, shall grant entry visas in accordance with regulatory rules thereof. The Minister of Interior may lay down rules governing procedures and conditions required for obtaining entry permissions by the residents for aliens who are residing outside the country.

Article (7)

The Immigration authorities in the international airports of any member emirate in the UAE may in accordance with rules set by the Ministry of Interior grant aliens entry the country visas for ninety six (96) hours as per the following conditions:

- a. The alien should have a passport or a travel document, valid for entry into the Country and for the country of destination.
- b. He should have ticket to continue his trip.
- c. He should leave the country within ninety six (96) hours from the time of obtaining the visa.

Article (8)

Any entry permission or visa shall state the purpose of entry into the country i.e. for visit, work or residence.

Article (9)

Entry permission and visa shall be valid for use during two months and for a single entry.

Article (10)

Entry permission or visa shall entitle holder to stay in the country for a period not exceeding thirty days.

Article (11)

The alien who obtains a visit visa may not work anywhere in the country with or without pay or for his own.

If the visa is issued to work for an individuals or an establishment, holder may not work for another individual or establishment without the written consent of that individual or establishment and the approval of the Directorate of Nationality and Immigration.

Article (12)

Any alien entering the Country with visit visa or permission shall have to leave the Country on the expiry date of such visa or permission either through cancellation expiry period thereof - unless he has obtained a residence license.

Part Three
Notification of Competent Authorities

Article (13)

Any alien enters the country shall present himself within a period not exceeding one week of his entry, to the Directorate of Nationality and Immigration or police center in his area and writes on the specified form a declaration of his entry and the necessary information. If he changes his residence place, he shall inform the authority during one week about his new address.

Article (14)

Managers of hotels and alike, shall inform the Directorate of Nationality and Immigration or the police center to whom they belong, about aliens whom they lodge or who leave their hotels during forty eight hours from the date of entering or leaving.

Any person who lodges or accommodates an alien shall inform about his name and address during forty eight hours from the entry or leaving of that alien.

Persons mentioned in the two articles above, shall inform about aliens who are with them on the date on which this law enters into force, within two weeks of that date.

Article (15)

Aliens, during their stay in the country, shall present passport or the document which acts as passport, if so requested, and shall answer all enquiries and give information. They shall, if so requested, to present themselves to the directorate of Nationality and Immigration or police centers on the date prescribed to them.

In case of lost or damage of passport, they have to inform the mentioned department within three days of the date of loss or damage.

Article (16)

Any one who employs an alien shall submit to the Directorate of Nationality and Immigration or the police center in his place of residence, a declaration on the prescribed form during forty eight hours of the date on which the alien joins his service. He shall also submit a declaration to the mentioned department or police center on the end of the alien's service.

Chapter Four

Aliens Residence

Article (17)

Directorate of Nationality and Immigration has the authority to issue a residence license for an alien for a period not exceeding one year, which may be renewed on the end of that period. The Directorate marks such license on the alien's passport and issues a card for him.

The alien has to inform the mentioned department in case this card has been lost and about any changes in the data registered on the card.

Article (18)

An alien who enters the country for visit purposes may not be given residence license except for a serious reason.

In such case, validity period of residence license shall not exceed the necessary period of its purpose.

Article (19)

Aliens who have obtained residence license shall be subject to the provisions of article (11) herein.

Chapter Five

Control Power

Article (20)

Without prejudice to any regulations or resolutions issued by the Council of Ministers, The Minister of Interior, for purposes connected with public interest, may cancel at any time, any visa or entry permission or residence license prior to its expiry date.

Article (21)

Local security authorities in member Emirates, and federal security authorities, each within its frame of concern, shall pursue those who breach the provisions of this law or its implementation regulations and orders.

Directorate of Nationality and Immigration has to inform the security authorities about cancellation or expiry of every visa, entry permission or residence license.

Security authorities have to abide to the instructions and orders issued by the mentioned department for the purpose of executing the provisions of this law.

Article (22)

Local security authorities in member Emirates and federal security authorities, each within its frame of concern, shall stop and search any vessel, if these authorities suspect that this vessel may carry persons who have committed crimes punishable under the provisions of this law, or attempting to commit such crimes. The authorities may arrest these persons and request the vessel to enter the nearest port in the country.

Chapter Six

Aliens Deportation

Article (23)

Minister of Interior may issue an order for deportation of any alien, even if the alien has a residence license, in the following cases:

- a. If an alien has been convicted and the court has issued an order for his deportation.

- b. If he has no apparent means of living.
- c. If the security authorities see that public interest or public security or public discipline require his deportation.

Article (24)

Order of deportation issued for an alien may include the members of his family, who are depending on him in their living.

Article (25)

Minister of Interior may detain the alien, against whom a deportation order has been issued, for a period not exceeding two weeks, if he considers this detention is essential for executing the deportation order.

Article (26)

The Minister of Interior may order that the deportation expenses of an alien and his family shall be incurred by the alien himself if he has money or on the account of the country to which he is belonging; otherwise the Ministry shall bear the deportation or exit expenses.

Article (27)

If an alien against whom a deportation order has been issued has interests in the country that need to be settled, he shall be granted a grace period after providing a guarantee to clear these interests. The Ministry of Interior shall determine the period, which shall not exceed three months.

Article (28)

An alien who has been deported may not return to the country except with special permission from the Minister of Interior.

Article (29)

The Department of Nationality and Immigration shall issue an order for deportation of an alien if he has no residence license or if his residence license has been expired. Such an alien may return to the country if he fulfills the conditions for entry in accordance with the provisions of law.

Chapter Seven

Punishments

Article (30)

If an alien comes to the country by any means of transportation by breaching the provisions of Article (2) and Article (7) of this law, the Directorate of Nationality and Immigration may order his deportation and may order the captain of the transportation means by which he comes or a captain of any other means belonging to the same owner to take that alien out of the country. The owner of the transportation means shall bear the transportation expenses.

Any captain of any transportation means who refuses to carry out an order issued to him in accordance with the precedent article may be punished by a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Dirham.

Article (31)

If an alien enters the country or stays in the country by breaching the provisions of this law, or refuses to obey an order issued to him for deportation, he shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding four months and by a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Dirham or with either of the two punishments.

Article (32)

1. Any captain of any transportation means or the responsible person of such means, if he brings or attempts to bring any person inside the country by violation of the provisions of this law, shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year and with a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dirham or with either one of these two punishments. The court has to order the deportation of this alien and departure of that means unless it considers otherwise for special reasons, which it has to state in its decision.
2. The captain of the transportation means or the person who is responsible for that means, shall be redeemed from the punishment under the precedent article, if he proves that the transportation means has entered or he is intending to enter it through the

statutory specified entrance place or he has taken or he is intending to take all necessary procedures to present that alien person to the concerned authorities to check his papers.

3. Defying that he has no knowledge that such alien is on board or that he does not know that the alien has no papers entitling him to enter the country, will not redeem the captain of the means or the responsible person of the punishment.
4. For the implementation of the provisions of this article, any person on board of a transportation means coming to the country, the captain of that means is deemed attempting to enter him to the country unless otherwise proofed.

Article (33)

Any person, who gives false statement to avoid the provisions of this law, shall be punished with imprisonment of a period not exceeding four months and a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Dirham or with either of these two punishments and the court may order his deportation from the country.

Article (34)

Any person who forges a visa or entry permission or license or a card for the purpose of entering the country or residing therein, or any document in order to avoid the provisions of this law, or uses knowingly any forged document, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years and a fine not exceeding Ten Thousand Dirham or with either of these two punishments; and the court may order his deportation from the country.

Article (35)

Except for punishments, prescribed for the crimes sated in this chapter, any person who violates the provisions of this law or regulations or orders issued for its implementation shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months and a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dirham or with either of these two punishments.

Article (36)

Any person attempts to commit a crime punishable under this law, or participates in that crime or assists or induces or urges other to commit such crime, shall be punished with the prescribed punishment for that who commits the crime itself.

Chapter Eight

Exemptions

Article (37)

The following are exempted from implementation of the provisions of this law:

- a. Presidents of states and their families.
- b. Head of diplomatic missions and consulates accredited in the country, and their families.

Members of diplomatic missions and consulates which are not accredited in the country shall be treated in accordance to reciprocity.

- c. Holders of diplomatic passports, on condition of reciprocity.
- d. Crews of vessels and airplanes coming to the country who hold marine tickets or air tickets from their concerned authorities.
- e. Persons whom the Minister of Interior decides to exempt with a special permission for international courtesy.
- f. Persons who are redeemed by virtue of international treaties in which the country is a party, but within the limits of these treaties.

Chapter Nine

Provisional and final provisions

Article (38)

Without prejudice to the provisions of article (29), the Ministry of Interior, with collaboration with security authorities in the member Emirates, shall record all aliens who are residing in the country without residence permission in order to consider their granting permissions in accordance with the provisions of this law.

The Minister of Interior may determine with a resolution the rules and procedures to be applied in this regard.

Article (39)

Entry visas and residence licenses granted by concerned authorities in the member Emirates prior to the date on which this law enters into force shall continue to be valid until they are cancelled by virtue of this law or until the expiry of their validity periods.

Certificates of no objection to provide entry visa to the Emirates, which are members in the Union, and which are valid at the date on which this law enters into force, are deemed as entry permission issued by virtue of the provisions of this law.

Article (40)

Prescribed fees, which are stated in the schedule annexed to this law for each case, shall be paid for the account of the state.

Article (41)

Departments of nationality and immigrations in the Emirates which are member of the Union are considered as branches of the Directorate of Nationality and Immigration in the capital. Employees and officers in these departments may be transferred to the mentioned directorate. Rules for that transfer shall be determined by the Minister of Interior.

Article (42)

The Supreme Federal Court shall have jurisprudence over the crimes which are mentioned in article (34) of this law. The local legal bodies in the Emirates members of the Union, each in the limit of its jurisdiction, shall deal with the other crimes.

Article (43)

The Minister of Interior shall issue the necessary regulations, resolutions and forms for the implementation of the provisions of this law.

Article (44)

Ministers, each in his jurisdiction, have to implement the provisions of this law. This law shall be published in the Official Gazette and enters into force after one month of its publication.

Zaid Bin Sultan

President of United Arab Emirates

Issued in the Presidency Palace in Abu Dhabi

On 25 Jamadah Al Thani 1393 H.

Corresponding to 25 July 1973

* The implementation regulations of this law has been issued by the Ministerial Decree No 12 for 1974, published in 21st edition of the Official Gazette.