

Article 31
(Conditions for visa issuance)

(1) For issuance of a visa, an applicant shall provide his/her particulars including biometric data as requested, as well as the other necessary information and the purpose of entry into BiH. The visa application shall be filed three months prior to the planned visit at the earliest, on a prescribed form to be filled with accurate and complete information.

(2) For issuance of a short-stay visa (Visa C), and in addition to the evidence on travel health insurance to cover the costs that may occur during his/her return to the country of origin due to health reasons, urgent medical assistance or urgent medical treatment or death during his/her stay in BiH, the applicant shall also enclose an evidence to justify the purpose and conditions of intended stay in BiH, as follows:

a) letter of invitation referred to in Article 32 (Letter of invitation) of this Law;

b) copy of court summons or other official invitation by which the applicant is summoned to respond in legal proceedings maintained in BiH;

c) copy of evidence of the paid tourist travel, including his/her accommodation and transportation, or evidence of an arranged travel or paid accommodation;

d) certificate confirming his/her admission to an institution providing education or training; or

e) another document based on which a reasonable conclusion may be drawn about the purpose and conditions of the intended stay in BiH, where possible and necessary.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) herein, the obligation of submitting evidences on travel health insurance shall not apply to the holders of diplomatic passports, and may also include certain professional groups, such as seamen that already possess their travel health insurance due to their professional activities.

(4) Should any suspicion arise as to the indicated purpose of entry into BiH, a BiH DCR officer may request the alien to provide certificates confirming: possession of real property, or the permanent sources of income in the country of origin, or the country of initial destination, or enrolment of studies or the like, or evidence for a reasonable conclusion that the alien would leave the country after expiry of his/her legal stay.

(5) Competent officer may also request evidence, explanation of data or information from the visa application, as well as to conduct an interview with the applicant.

(6) Condition for issuance of a short-term visa (Visa C) prescribed by paragraph (2) herein shall accordingly apply to the cases of issuance of long-term visas (Visa D).

Article 32
(Letter of invitation)

(1) Letter of invitation is a letter whereby an alien is invited to come to BiH for a specific purpose within a designated period of time.

(2) Letter of invitation for entry into BiH may be issued by a BiH citizen or an alien with the approved permanent stay in BiH, or by a national or international legal person registered in BiH.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) herein, a letter of invitation for the purpose of family reunification or visit may be issued by: an alien with approved temporary residence in BiH on grounds of the Blue Card;

or by an alien with approved temporary residence staying in BiH for at least a year or longer and has reasonable chances for being granted a permanent residence in BiH; or by an alien with recognised refugee status. An alien with an approved temporary residence for up to one year may issue a letter of invitation solely for the purpose of a visit.

(4) Letter of invitation shall be issued on a prescribed form and is to contain the inviter's statement of assuming the obligation to provide the alien with accommodation, to cover expenses of medical treatment(s), to provide the subsistence and cover other costs that may arise during the alien's stay in BiH, such are the costs of placing him/her under surveillance, the costs of his/her voluntary return or forceful removal, as well as all other costs pertaining to the alien's departure from BiH, unless the alien is able to cover these costs on his/her own.

(5) Letter of invitation shall be certified by the Service in the place of permanent residence or the seat of the inviter dependant of the evidences supporting the application and conducted operational checks. The letter of invitation shall be valid for 180 days from the day of certification.

(6) In the event referred to in paragraph (3) herein, the Service shall also certify the letter of invitation on grounds of evidenced veracity of the family reunification purposes.

(7) The Service may certify a letter of invitation for a group consisting of at least five and not over 50 persons who travel with a collective passport.

(8) In the sense of this Law, for a letter of invitation shall be considered an official document of the authority at the level of state, entity, cantonal and/or Brcko District as well as of diplomatic-consular representation of a foreign country or an international organization holding a diplomatic status in BiH.