
The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the session of the House of Representatives of December 15, 1997 and at the session of the House of Peoples of December 16, 1997, has endorsed a

LAW ON TRAVEL DOCUMENTS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Article 1

This Law shall regulate travel documents of the nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Article 2

A travel document is a public document proving identity and citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Citizenship of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina or of the Republic of Srpska.

Article 3

A national of Bosnia and Herzegovina [hereinafter: "citizen"] shall be entitled to have a travel document under the conditions provided for by this Law.

Article 4

Travel documents are: Passport, Diplomatic Passport, Service Passport, Group Passport and Travel Certificate. A Citizen may possess only one travel document of the same kind.

Article 5

With the exception of the travel documents as defined by this Law, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina or the Republic of Srpska, shall not issue other documents providing information on a person, including his/her identity to enable the person to travel outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Article 6

The Passport shall be of the following form:

1. The cover shall be of dark blue color;
2. The front cover shall contain, in the following order,
 - a) the words "Bosnia and Herzegovina";
 - b) the national emblem of Bosnia and Herzegovina (when decided by the Parliamentary Assembly and approved by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina)
 - c) the word "Passport",
 - d) the words "The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina" in italics if the holder of Passport is a national of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
 - e) the words "the Republic of Srpska" in italics if the holder of the Passport is citizen of the Republic of Srpska.
 - f) the height of the letters of the Entity name is half the height of the letters for the name of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The length of the Entity name shall be equal to the length of the name of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The text of items a), c) and d) shall be printed in the Bosnian or Croatian language for passports of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued to persons referred to in point d), as chosen by the applicant for issuing of the passport. The text of items a), c) and e) shall be printed in the Serbian language for passports of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued to persons referred to in point e). Items a) and c) shall also be printed in English.

3. The text of the first page of the Passport shall be identical to the text of the front cover.

Article 7

Diplomatic Passport, or Service Passport, shall be of the same form as the Passports referred to in Article 6 of this Law, with the exception of the following:

1. The front cover shall contain, in the following order:
 - a) the words “Bosnia and Herzegovina”, and
 - b) the national emblem of BiH (when decided by the Parliamentary Assembly and approved by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina)
 - c) the words “ Diplomatic Passport” or “Service Passport”.
2. The first page shall contain, of the same size, in the following order:
 - a) the words “Bosnia and Herzegovina”
 - b) the words “Diplomatic Passport” or “Service Passport”
 - c) if the bearer of Passport is a citizen of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, then the words “the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina”
 - d) if the bearer of Passport is a citizen of the Republic of Srpska, then the words “the Republic of Srpska”

Article 8

Every Passport shall contain:

1. 32 pages with perforated serial number;
2. on the inside of the front cover a laminated identification page which shall contain the following items in Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian language and font. The information contained therein shall be written in Latin font:
 - a) surname,
 - b) given name(s),
 - c) date of birth,
 - d) personal identification number,
 - e) sex,
 - f) place of birth,
 - g) date of issue,
 - h) date of expire,
 - i) place of issue,
 - j) signature of bearer,
 - k) Passport serial number; and
 - l) a photograph of the bearer;
3. the page reserved for children shall include:
 - a) surname,
 - b) given name(s),
 - c) date of birth,
 - d) place of birth, and

e) sex

of any such children.

4. the inner page of the back cover shall contain the following text:

- a) "This Passport should be safeguarded in every way and must not be altered";
- b) "The Passport may be used only by the bearer in whose name it is issued. Children under the age of 16 whose names are included in it must therefore be accompanied by the bearer."
- c) "The Passport is not valid unless signed by the bearer on the designated signature line."
- d) "The bearer of this Passport is a national of Bosnia and Herzegovina" and either "the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina" if the bearer of the Passport is a national of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina or "the Republic of Srpska" if the bearer of Passport is a national of the Republic of Srpska and
- e) "This Passport contains 32 pages."

Article 9

Diplomatic Passport or Service Passport, apart from the elements referred to in Article 8 of this Law, shall contain a page reserved for the following text:

"In the name of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asks all competent bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as bodies of other countries to allow the bearer of this Passport to pass freely without hindrance and to grant the bearer such assistance and protection as may be necessary."

Article 10

The cover of the Group Passport shall contain the same elements as the passport referred to in Article 6 of this Law, with the words "Group Passport" instead of the word "Passport".

Details concerning the form of group passport shall be determined by the competent ministry.

Group Passport shall be issued to a group of not less than five and not more than fifty persons, for a single travel to one or more precisely identified countries.

Each person registered in the Group Passport has to meet the conditions necessary to be issued an individual passport as specified by this Law.

The data on each user of the group passport is entered into Group Passport: first and second name, name of either parent, date, month and year of birth, place of permanent residence. The Group Passport shall contain a photo of each user of the passport.

Group Passport shall be valid as long as the group needs it to travel abroad, but no longer than a year.

Article 11

1. A person younger than 18 years of age not possessing his/her own passport may be registered into a passport of either parent or a guardian, upon the parents' or guardian's request.
2. The registration into parents' or guardian's passport of the person referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be annulled ex officio after such a person is issued his/her own passport.

Article 12

Travel certificate shall be issued to a person staying abroad without a passport to enable him/her to return to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The same travel certificate may be used by a spouse or children of the user of travel certificate, if entered into the travel certificate which contains their photos.

Travel certificate shall be valid as long as it is needed for the return to Bosnia and Herzegovina, but no longer than 20 days.

Travel certificate shall be issued by a diplomatic or consular representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina abroad in the country where the person concerned is staying.

The form and the content of the travel certificate shall be specified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Article 13

Travel Documents Issuing Competence:

Travel documents as set out by this Law, with the exception of Diplomatic and Service Passports, shall be issued by the following bodies, under the conditions and as specified by this Law:

1. Competent bodies of the Entity;
2. Ministry for Civil Affairs and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
3. Diplomatic and Consular representations of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Diplomatic passports are only issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Service Passports are only issued by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina may authorise one Ministry of each Entity to issue Service Passports

Article 14

The Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications shall issue passports to nationals who meet the conditions provided for by this Law, and have not been issued passports by an Entity.

Article 15

1. Diplomatic and Consular representations of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall issue Passports referred to in Article 6 of this law to citizens staying abroad three months or longer under the conditions and as provided for by this law.
2. Diplomatic and Consular representations of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall issue passports referred to in Article 6 of this Law or Travel Certificates referred to in Article 12 of this Law, to citizens staying abroad less than three months, when their Passports are expired, damaged, stolen or otherwise lost. A passport issued in accordance with this paragraph shall be valid no longer than three months.

PASSPORTS ISSUING PROCEDURE

Article 16

An application for issuing a travel document shall be submitted in a specified form.

The form and the content of the application form for travel documents referred to in Article 6 and 10, and Service Passports shall be set out by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Article 17

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall lay down the form and the content of the application form for issuing Diplomatic Passports and Travel Certificate.

Article 18

An application for issuing a travel document may also be submitted by a proxy.

For minors, or persons incapable of doing business, an application for issuing travel documents shall be submitted by a parent with consent of the other, or another legal representative.

With the exception of the provisions referred to in the preceding paragraph, a travel document shall be issued in the following cases:

- a) if a parent is a person unaccounted for;
- b) if a parent's permanent or temporary residence is unknown;
- c) if a parent cannot be reached by the authority responsible for issuing passports.

The competent authorities for issuing passports shall be obliged ex officio to establish whether the conditions referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article have been met.

Article 19

Apart from application form for a travel document, the applicant shall submit his or her identity card or another public document proving the identity and citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Entity.

Two photographs truly depicting the applicant and the receipt proving that administrative fee has been paid shall be submitted to an application for issuance of a travel document.

Whenever a travel document is expired and cannot serve its purpose, it shall be enclosed to the application referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article unless it is stolen or otherwise lost.

The competent body shall be obliged to resolve an application for issuing travel document within 15 days as of the date the application has been submitted.

Exceptionally from the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article (in case of medical treatment abroad, illness or death of a member of the nuclear family), the competent body shall be obliged to issue a travel document immediately, but not later than 24 hours from the moment the application has been submitted.

Article 20

An application for issuing a diplomatic and service passport shall be submitted by the competent body of Bosnia and Herzegovina or an Entity.

Article 21

An application for issuing a travel document shall be dismissed in the following cases:

1. if the applicant fails to produce a duly completed application with enclosures as specified by Article 18 of this Law;
2. if the applicant has been charged with an offense which is persecuted ex officio and for which a prison sentence of at least one year is foreseen;
3. if the applicant has been sentenced by a legally valid verdict to a prison sentence longer than 3 months and there is a danger of avoiding the sentence.

Any dismissal of the application for issuing a travel document and the reasons thereof shall be explained in writing only upon an explicit request of the applicant.

Article 22

A person whose application for issuing a travel document has been dismissed pursuant to Article 21 of this Law or for other reasons shall be entitled to:

- a) lodge an appeal to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina if the competent body of Bosnia and Herzegovina has decided to dismiss the application;
- b) refer to the competent body of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to be issued a travel document that he/she used all legal means but could not exercise his/her right to passport in the Entity.

Article 23

The bearer of a travel document shall be dispossessed of that travel document in the following cases:

- a) if he/she has obtained travel document providing false or misleading information
- b) if he/she allows someone else to use his/her travel document
- c) if his/her citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina has terminated
- d) if later established that there were obstacles referred to in Article 21 paragraph 1 items 2 and 3 of this Law.

On dispossession of travel documents pursuant to the preceding paragraph a decision shall be made by the competent authority issuing that travel document.

Article 24

A person dispossessed of his/her travel document pursuant to Article 23 of this Law shall have right to lodge an appeal.

On the appeal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article the following shall decide:

- a) the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, if a travel document has been issued by the competent authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- b) the competent authority of the Entity defined by the Entity regulation if a travel document has been issued by the competent authority of the Entity.

The appeal shall not prevent the decision from being executed.

Article 25

The Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications shall specify:

- a) the manner of dismissal and annulment of travel documents;
- b) the manner of notifying the authorities competent for the control over travel documents.

CENTRAL REGISTRY

Article 26

The Ministry for Civil Affairs and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall establish a central register of all Passports issued by the competent authorities referred to in Article 13 of this Law.

Article 27

The authorities competent for issuing travel documents referred to in Article 13 of this Law shall be obliged to submit data on travel documents issued and revoked to the body referred to in the previous Article within 7 days as of the date a travel document is issued or revoked.

Article 28

The Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be responsible for purchase, printing and deciding on the price of travel documents as well as for their distribution to the bodies referred to in Article 13 of this Law.

DATE OF EXPIRY

Article 29

Passports specified by this Law shall be issued for a validity period of 5 years and to persons younger than 16 years of age for a validity period of 2 years.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 30

Travel documents issued prior to the entry into force of this Law shall be valid until the date of expiry stated in the travel document but no later than 30 of June 1999.

Article 31

Proceedings resolving applications for issuing travel documents initiated prior to the beginning of

the application of this Law shall be completed according to the provisions of this Law.

Article 32

Within 60 days as of the date this Law enters into force, all competent authorities shall pass, for the purpose of enforcement of this Law, regulations harmonized with this Law.

Until the regulations referred to in the previous paragraph have been passed, the regulations passed under the Law on Travel Documents of Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BH 30/96) shall be valid if not contrary to this law.

Article 33

Supervision over the enforcement of this Law shall be carried out by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the competent authorities of the Entities as laid down by the regulations of the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Article 34

Subject to Article 32 of this Law, any Laws and regulations on the basis of which travel documents of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been regulated shall cease to be valid upon the entry into force of this Law.

Article 35

This Law shall enter into force on the eighth day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina and shall be applied 60 days thereafter.

This Law shall also be published in the official gazettes of the Entities.

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6 June 2001
Sarajevo

Chairman of the House of Peoples of
The Parliamentary Assembly of BiH
Ilija Šimić, Msc. signed

Chairman of the House of the Representatives of
The Parliamentary Assembly of BiH
Sead Avdić, Ph.D. signed