

# NEWSFLASH – 22 August 2012



## Professional card for foreigners

A person wishing to carry out a professional activity on a self-employed basis in Belgium, as an individual or as a mandatory for a company or an association, whether he is remunerated for his mandate or not, must be in possession of a valid professional card if:

- he is not a Belgian national; or
- he is not a national of one of the Member States of the European Economic Union (the European Union plus Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein) or of Switzerland; or
- he is not exempt from this formality for another reason (unlimited stay, recognized refugee in Belgium, ...).

An application for a professional card must be filed:

- a) either with the Belgian Embassy or Consulate of the country of residence, for a person living abroad;
- b) either with a recognized business desk of his choice in Belgium, for a person with a valid “attestation of immatriculation” Model A or with a valid certificate of registration with the register of foreigners.
- c) or through a Belgian Embassy or Consulate in another country or in Belgium for a person who, for reasons of personal safety, cannot apply from his country of residence. Such application is only possible with prior permission from the Ministry of the Middle Classes and Internal Affairs.

Professional cards are valid for a period of 5 years at most. Generally, a first card is granted for a two year trial period, yet renewable. An application for renewal must be submitted at least three months before the expiration date of the card.

Filing an application for (the renewal/substitution/modification of) a professional card via the business desk in Belgium or the competent Belgian diplomatic or consular authorities abroad is subject to a fee of 140 EUR.

Foreigners carrying out a professional activity on a self-employed basis in Belgium and who are not in possession of a professional card can be penalised with a prison term of eight days to three months and a fine between 156 EUR and 6.000 EUR, or with one of these sanctions only.

In case of any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on [info@advocatenmalisse.be](mailto:info@advocatenmalisse.be).

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