

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON**

The Department of State of the United States of America acknowledges receipt of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation's note No. 46197 /KD, dated November 1, 2011, which reads as follows:

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to the Department of State of the United States of America and, for the purpose of developing relations between the two States on the basis of friendship, mutual understanding and reciprocity, and being guided by the desire to strengthen reciprocal economic, scientific, technical and cultural ties and to promote freedom of movement of citizens of both States, has the honor to propose on behalf of the Russian Federation that the Russian Federation and the United States of America, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, conclude the following Agreement on the terms concerning issuance of: by the Russian Federation – business, private, humanitarian and tourist visas; by the United States of America – B1/B2 visas; and by both Parties – visas for short-term official travel.

DIPLOMATIC NOTE

1. Nationals of each Party shall enter (transit, leave, stay) in the territory of the other Party on the basis of valid passports for crossing the border (hereinafter referred to as the “passports”) and valid visas, except for cases where they are exempt from the need to obtain a visa in accordance with the domestic law of the State of entry.
2. The diplomatic missions and consular posts of each Party shall make decisions on visa applications, as a rule, within 15 calendar days from the date of the initiation of their processing. The period of time for making a decision on a visa application may be extended in individual cases, in particular when further scrutiny of the application is needed. The period of time for making a decision on a visa application may be reduced to 3 working days or fewer in urgent cases.
3. Nationals of each Party shall as a rule be issued multiple-entry visas for a stay of no more than 6 months starting from the date of each entry that are valid for 36 months from the date of issue as long as reciprocity is maintained: by the Russian Federation – business, private, humanitarian and tourist visas, and by the United States of America – B1/B2 visas.

4. The visas referred to in paragraph 3 of this Agreement shall be issued to the nationals of each Party without submission of documents, required in accordance with the domestic law of the State of entry.

However, diplomatic missions and consular posts of each Party may require, while considering a visa request, besides the visa application form, information regarding the confirmation of the purpose of travel and the availability of funds sufficient to stay in the territory of the respective State. The joint indicative list of the documents for providing such information shall be established by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

5. For short-term official travel, nationals of each Party shall as a rule be issued multiple-entry visas for a stay of no more than 3 months starting from the date of each entry that are valid for 12 months from the date of issue, as long as reciprocity is maintained.

6. Nationals of each Party who have lost their passports during a stay in the territory of the other Party may depart from it without a visa or other permit on the basis of valid identification documents issued by diplomatic missions or consular posts of the State of which they are citizens.

7. Nationals of each Party may, on the conditions set forth in this Agreement, apply for a visa at diplomatic missions or consular posts of the other Party that are located in the territory of third states.

8. The provisions set forth herein shall not and are not intended to restrict the authority of the competent authorities of each Party to refuse or revoke a visa, refuse entry or departure, or limit the stay in its territory of nationals of the other Party in accordance with its domestic law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation further proposes, on behalf of the Russian Federation, that if the aforementioned proposal is acceptable to the United States of America, this diplomatic note and the Department of State's affirmative note in reply will constitute an Agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the simplification of visa formalities for nationals of the Russian Federation and nationals of the United States of America. This Agreement will enter into force 30 days after the receipt through diplomatic channels of the last written notification in which the Parties inform each other that the national legal requirements for the entry into force of this Agreement have been met. Either Party may

terminate this Agreement at any time and shall provide 90 days advance written notice to the other Party through diplomatic channels of its intention to terminate the Agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of State of the United States of America the assurances of its high consideration.”

The Department of State of the United States of America confirms that the above proposal is acceptable to the Government of the United States of America and agrees that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation’s note and this reply shall constitute an agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation that will enter into force 30 days after receipt through the diplomatic channels of the last written notification in which Parties inform each other that the national legal requirements for the entry into force of the agreement have been met.

Department of State,

Washington, . November 19, 2011

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