



NEW REQUIREMENT: CIVIC INTEGRATION EXAMINATION REQUIRED FOR PERMANENT AND CONTINUED RESIDENCE PERMIT

As from 1 January 2010, an individual must have passed the civic integration exams (so-called: inburgeringsexamen) to qualify for one of the following:

- a. a permanent asylum residence permit;
- b. a permanent non-asylum residence permit; and
- c. the change from a temporary non-asylum residence permit to an independent continued residence permit.

This only applies to foreign nationals who apply for continued residence after having lived for three years with a person with a non-temporary residence permit in the framework of family reunification or formation. For instance, they may have lived with their Dutch spouse for three years.

Incorrect correspondence from City Hall

We have heard several complaints that City Halls are sending letters regarding this requirement to foreign individuals with Dutch residence permits who do not fall under the scope of this law, for example, highly-skilled knowledge migrants.

Please note that it is important to reply to this letter even if you are not subject to this requirement. You may incur the fine as mentioned in the letter if you fail to respond. The City Hall will likely request a copy of the front and back of the current residence permit card to prove that you are indeed excluded from the integration course requirement.

Action advised before 31 December 2009 (in certain cases) to avoid the Civic Integration Exam

Those foreign individuals who meet the current general conditions and who have applied for one of the aforementioned residence permits prior to 31 December 2009, do not have to sit for the exam. Therefore, we are advising clients to apply as soon as possible—which is three months before the expiration date of their current residence permit.

Should you have any questions regarding your personal situation or other immigration issues, please do not hesitate to contact Iris Weber tel. + 31 20 670 0387, mob. +31 62 438 5074