

Notification of Unqualified Notifiable Trades: Natural persons with domicile outside the Czech Republic

(Foreign natural persons – Citizens of EU Member States, the EEA and Switzerland)

What is a trade?

Under Section 2 of the Trade Licensing Act, any systematic activity conducted independently, under the conditions stipulated in the Trade Licensing Act by a natural person or a legal person in his (its) own name and on his (its) own responsibility for the purpose of making a profit is considered a trade.

Who can carry on a trade?

A natural person whose permanent residential address is outside the territory of the Czech Republic ('foreign natural person') may carry on a trade on the territory of the Czech Republic under the same conditions and to the same extent as a Czech person, unless the Trade Licensing Act or another Act provides otherwise.

A foreign natural person who is citizen of a Member State of the European Union or another State party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation need not present a residential permit according to the Act on the stay of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic according to Section 5(5) of the Trade Licensing Act to the Trade Licensing Office when filing an application for a trade permit.

A natural person granted asylum in the Czech Republic under special regulations may carry on a trade under the same conditions as a citizen of the Czech Republic who is resident in the Czech Republic.

The conditions for carrying on an unqualified trade:

The general conditions to be met by natural persons for carrying on a trade are:

- ◆ to be at least 18 years of age
- ◆ to have full legal capacity
- ◆ to have no criminal conviction according to the Trade Licensing Act, Section 6(4)
- ◆ a document testifying that the natural person, if he transacts or has transacted business in the Czech Republic, has no tax arrears. This document is issued by the locally competent revenue office. The document must not be older than 3 months.
- ◆ a document testifying that the natural person, if he transacts or has transacted business in the Czech Republic, has no arrears in payment of social security contributions and the state employment policy contribution. The document is issued by the local social security office. The document must not be older than 3 months.

Unqualified trades are not subject to special conditions (i.e. professional qualifications) for the carrying on of such a trade; an entrepreneur pursuing an unqualified trade needs only satisfy the general conditions for carrying on a trade.

Rules of Procedure for notifying an unqualified trade:

The form 'Notification of a Professional Notifiable Trade' may be obtained from any Trade Licensing Office or is available on the Internet.

Notification may be delivered in person at the competent municipal Trade Licensing Office or may be sent to this office by post.

A foreign natural person who does not establish an organizational unit of his enterprise for the purpose of engaging in business on the territory of the Czech Republic must notify his trade to the local Trade Licensing Office according to the place of his permitted stay in the Czech Republic, or (if such territorial jurisdiction cannot be determined) according to his place of business in the Czech Republic.

A foreign natural person who establishes an organizational unit of his enterprise on the territory of the Czech Republic for the purpose of engaging in business notifies his trade to the Trade Licensing Office competent according to the location of the organizational unit of his enterprise on the territory of the Czech Republic.

After delivering of all the required documents (see below) it is necessary to pay an administrative fee of CZK 1,000 for the issue of a trade certificate (CZK 10,000 for a trade carried on by industrial methods).

The Trade Licensing Office will grant the trade certificate no later than 15 days after receipt of the notification if the entrepreneur satisfies the conditions laid down the Trade Licensing Act and there is no impediment to carrying on the trade.

If an entrepreneur's notification does not contain all particulars, the Trade Licensing Office will call upon the entrepreneur to rectify the defects within 15 days. The Trade Licensing Office will set an appropriate time limit for the rectification of the defects, which will be not be less than 15 days. During this time limit, the period stipulated for the grant of the trade certificate will not run. At the entrepreneur's request (application), the Trade Licensing Office may extend this time limit repeatedly, providing that there is good reason to do so. If the entrepreneur rectifies the defects within the set time limit or an extended time limit, his notification will be regarded as having been without defects from the beginning. If the entrepreneur fails to rectify the defects in his notification within the time limit, the Trade Licensing Office will commence proceedings and rule that no authorization to carry on the trade in question arose when the trade was notified, or will rule that the applicant has not complied with the conditions required for the authorization of the trade. If the applicant rectifies the defects during the course of the proceedings and the Trade Licensing Office establishes that the conditions for the authorization of the trade have been complied with, the Trade Licensing Office will conclude the proceedings by granting a trade certificate.

Obligations of the Natural Person after obtaining a trade certificate:

- ◆ Apply for registration at the locally competent tax administration (revenue office - within 30 days of obtaining a trade authorization)
- ◆ Register yourself and employees at the locally competent social security administration (within 8 days)
- ◆ Register yourself and employees at a selected health insurance company (within 8 days)
- ◆ Submit an application form for compulsory accident insurance on behalf of employees (if you employ at least one employee)

What documents does the applicant need to present to the Trade Licensing Office when notifying an unqualified trade?

- ◆ Form: “Notification of a Trade” (completed in advance or on the spot)
- ◆ A criminal conviction certificate or an equivalent document issued by a Member State of the European Union issued by a competent judicial or administrative authority of this State or Member State of the last stay. If the State does not issue such a document, the professional representative submits a declaration of having no criminal conviction made before a notary or authority of the Member State of which he is citizen or before a notary or authority of the Member State of his last stay (not older than 3 months). The document submitted by a citizen of a Member State of the European Union may be replaced with a certificate of recognition of professional qualifications if it proves that the condition of having no criminal conviction has been satisfied, if the professional representative is a citizen of a Member State of the European Union or citizen of other States – parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area and the Swiss Confederation, otherwise a criminal conviction certificate.
- ◆ An affidavit made by the professional representative (if appointed) that he agrees with his appointment, with the assumption of obligations to the extent laid down by the Trade Licensing Act and with the disclosure of the identities of entrepreneurs for whom he has already been appointed a professional representative; the signature on the affidavit must be officially authenticated, unless it is made in person before the Trade Licensing Office
- ◆ An extract from the Commercial Register which is not more than three months old, if the natural person is entered therein
- ◆ A document testifying that the natural person, if he transacts or has transacted business in the Czech Republic, has no tax arrears. This document is issued by the locally competent revenue office. The document must not be older than 3 months.
- ◆ A document testifying that the natural person, if he transacts or has transacted business in the Czech Republic, has no arrears in payment of social security contributions and the state employment policy contribution. The document is issued by the local social security office. The document must not be older than 3 months.
- ◆ A document substantiating the professional qualifications of the entrepreneur or the professional qualifications of his professional representative
- ◆ A document regarding the ownership or right of use or other title to buildings and premises in which the place of business is located if that place is different from the permanent residential address of the applicant (if an organizational unit is established, the same documents are required for this organizational unit)
- ◆ If an organizational unit is established, a document proving that the natural person has a business outside the Czech Republic
- ◆ Proof of the payment of an administrative fee of CZK 1,000 per notified trade (or CZK 10,000 where the carrying on of a trade is by industrial methods)
- ◆ If the entrepreneur intends to carry on a trade by industrial methods, documents substantiating the carrying on of a trade by industrial methods

Provided the Trade Licensing Office has no doubts about the correctness of the translation or the authenticity of the signature or the stamp, the documents to be submitted, if they were not issued in Czech, need not be officially translated into Czech (by a translator entered in the register of experts and interpreters), and the authenticity of the signature and stamp on the document need not be verified.

Source: Trade Licensing Guide from the official website of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic.