

Entrance to Italy

Persons may enter Italy according to the EU-wide laws of European countries (the Schengen Convention June 14, 1985). Citizens of countries not included in the convention instead must be in possession of an appropriate visa.

The authority of issuing visas for entry to the Italian Republic belongs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its network of authorised diplomatic and consular offices. For the issuance of a Schengen visa one must inform the local Schengen Representative of the sole or primary reason of travel.

Aside from a standard Tourist Visa, there are various other types of travel permits: Uniform Schengen Visas (USV-EC Regulation no. 810/2009 of 13.7.2009); Limited Territorial Validity Visas (LTV); Visas for Long Stay or “National” (VN) (article. 5, para. 8 of Presidential Decree 31.8.1999, n. 394).

Ministerial Decree n. 850 of 11.5.2011 (Annex 1), in conjunction with the Ministries concerned, determines the types of visas and the requirements for obtaining them.

E.g.: The visa for self-employed workers allows entry into Italy for the purpose of short or longterm stays, either for a fixed duration or open-ended, to a foreigner intending to pursue professional or independent work.

E.g.: The Diplomatic Mission visa allows entry into Italy for the purpose of a short- or long-term fixed-term stay, to those foreigners who, for political, governmental or public administration reasons, must enter the Italian territory. This type of visa is granted to foreigners who hold government positions, are employed by public administrations or entities, or employed by international organisations, sent to Italy in accordance with their duties; or to private citizens, for whom the importance of their activities may be withheld from the public in the interest of relations between their home country and Italy.

Regarding EXPO 2015, Italian Law no. 3.2013, which refers to art. 6 of the Exposition Promoter Agreement (BIE) and the Italian Republic, relates to entry visas for diplomatic missions, regarding the event and the staff necessary as determined by each Section Commissioner General. These visas are issued free of charge and as quickly as possible.

Additionally, the third paragraph of the same article has imposed upon Italy the requirement to take all necessary measures to facilitate entry and residence into the Italian Republic for the following persons:

- a) Staff of non-profit organisations or, in general, unofficial participants holding a participation agreement with the Organisation,
- b) Service providers for Official and Unofficial Participants,
- c) Exhibitors of Official and Unofficial Participants,
- d) Persons involved with the artistic and cultural events organised within the exhibition site, Official and Unofficial Participants and Organisers,
- e) Journalists accompanying foreign delegations instructed to follow the events organised by participants at the EXPO Milano 2015,
- f) Persons involved in commercial activities within the exposition, authorised by the Organiser.

Entry visas for these persons are issued as quickly as possible on the basis of existing legislation.

The issue of diplomatic mission visas, with reference to the exhibition event exempt said staff from the issuance of working visas but not from the procedures necessary for a residence visa. Equal treatment is

acknowledged to staff that enter Italy under visa exception regulations for a stay of up to ninety days in any semester.

The Law Firm is able to deal with all legal issues related to the arrival of persons into the Italian Republic.