



Abogados & Notarios

COMPANY RECOGNITION BENEFITS

COMPANY RECOGNITION BY IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES – COSTA RICA IMMIGRATION LAW- COSTA RICA BUSINESS START-UP – COSTA RICA RESIDENCY, WORKING PERMITS AND VISAS – IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS COSTA RICA – When a foreign company or corporation is planning to expand and start operations in Costa Rica, one of their biggest concerns is legalizing the immigration status of their foreign employees. Expatriates require a residency to work in Costa Rica; therefore, it is important to find ways to obtain it in the least time possible. When Costa Rican Immigration authorities find that it is beneficial for Costa Rican economy to make it easier and faster for certain company or corporation to complete all of its paperwork and procedures to legally operate in Costa Rica, Immigration authorities grant a “*Recognized Company*” status that turns faster all residency applications of employees working for that specific entity. As follows we explain in detail what is required to obtain this status.

COMPANY REGISTRATION: Executive Decree 36576-G-COMEX has granted national or transnational companies the possibility of registering as companies recognized by the Costa Rican Immigration Authorities. This registration enables companies to bring foreign employees for executive or technical positions. There are different categories of companies that can be registered according to the regulation mentioned above:

CLASSIFICATION A. These are companies that are operating or will start operations under a special regime of exportations and under the benefits of the Free Trade Zone administered by COMEX and PROCOMER.

CLASSIFICATION B. The companies that are exporting goods or services outside of the special regime of exportations or conducting research and development can be registered under this category and obtain the *Company Recognition* status.

CLASSIFICATION C. Companies that are operating in the tourism sector in Costa Rica, specifically those providing tourists accommodation services can also obtain the Company Recognition. A “Tourism Declaration” is required and at least a four star rating. This category also applies to airlines registered in the Airline Association. In the case of air-cargo companies, they are required to have an operations center in the country.

CLASSIFICATION D. This category includes companies operating in the Financial sector in Costa Rica, whether bank or non-bank (pension operators, brokerage houses and securities, insurance, etc.) and whose activities must be supervised by SUGEF, SUPEN, SUGEVAL and SUGESE.

CLASSIFICATION E. This category includes companies from the telecommunications sector in Costa Rica, under the control and supervision of SUTEL.



CLASSIFICATION F. This category includes multinational companies that have decided to start a subsidiary or affiliate in Costa Rica dedicated to the production and marketing of goods and services. Multinational companies are required to have and prove operations – not only legal existence- in at least three other countries around the world besides Costa Rica.

CLASSIFICATION G. This category includes national or foreign companies that are operating or will start operations in Costa Rica, and are awarded a contract by the Government. The contract must be for more than one year.

NOT RECOGNIZED COMPANIES: According to Article 83 of the Immigration Regulations (Decree Executive 37112-G), companies that do not enjoy the benefits of the “*Immigration Recognition*” award by the Executive Decree 36576-G-COMEX, may apply to the Immigration Office and request an authorization for temporary residency of its managers, executives and technical personnel. Spouses, under age children, older children with disabilities and children over 18 and under 25 years with economic dependence, can benefit from this regime.

REQUIREMENTS: There are specific requirements for each of the abovementioned categories or regimes. Notwithstanding the above, all applications must include:

- Certificate of criminal records issued at the applicant’s country of origin.
- Birth certificate of each applicant, issued by the corresponding authority where the birth occurred.
- Marriage certificate issued in the country in which the wedding took place, in case the main applicant wishes to include his/her spouse.
- Certified copies of all pages of passport, with a valid and goodstanding tourism visa.
- Consular registration issued by the Consulate of the applicant’s country in Costa Rica. Should there not be a Consulate of this country in Costa Rica, the application must be accompanied by a Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship indicating such circumstance.
- Registration of Fingerprints with the Costa Rican Ministry of Public Security.

WHICH LANGUAGE SHOULD BE USED IN DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PROCEEDINGS AND APPLICATIONS? The official language in Costa Rica is Spanish. All documents required may be prepared in the official language of its’ country of origin, but must be filed accompanied with its’ respective translation to Spanish. Navas & Navas provides the complementary translation services.



WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS THAT DOCUMENTS COMING FROM OTHER COUNTRIES MUST MEET IN ORDER TO BE USED IN COSTA RICA? All documents issued by a foreign authority must come duly legalized and authenticated. Costa Rica signed International Treaty 8923, also known as the Apostille Convention or the Hague Treaty, to simplify the legalization proceedings. Document sealed with the “Apostille” in their country of origin will be valid and effective in Costa Rica without further legalizations locally. Should your country not be a party to such Treaty, the document will require legalization by the Costa Rican Consulate.

WHAT IS THE DURATION OF IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS? Immigration authorities in Costa Rica are generally not as fast and expedite as one would hope. Notwithstanding the above, there is no reason why a process should take years to be completed should the applicant complies with all due requirements. Should you want your registration or naturalization process to be completed as quickly as possible, we strongly suggest you seek the knowledgeable and practical assistance from the specialists of our Immigration Department .

In case you should need further assistance with these and other Immigration or Relocation matters, do not hesitate to contact us at info@costarica-law.com.