

## PROCEDURE OF LEGALIZATION OF DOCUMENTS FOR OFFICIAL CIRCULATION IN UZBEKISTAN

*Apostilled* documents are not admissible in Uzbekistan, therefore a document originating from abroad must pass through the procedure of *legalization*. The *legalization* which is also named as *super-legalization* or *consularization* represents a procedure of certification of signature of a foreign official or attorney on a document. The *legalization* (i.e. certification of signatures) could be achieved through one of the two possible ways as is described below:

- (a) in the territory of Uzbekistan by a notary public (attorney) of Uzbekistan; or
- (b) abroad or in relation to foreign documents by Uzbekistan's Consular in the appropriate foreign country.

### 1. Legalization abroad

#### 1.1. Certification of the document by authorized officials of the country from which the document originates

The Uzbek Consular in the foreign country cannot certify a document originating from an entity residing in this country, until an authorized official or state officer or notary public of that country confirms by way of certifying that such entity's signature is genuine.

It is apparent that the Uzbek Consular may not have signatures of all state officer or notary public; therefore it will request further certification of the document by the authorized state official, a sample of whose signature was officially delivered to the Uzbek Consular. Certification of the document by the authorized state official must be made in accordance with the requirements of the country in which the legalization is made.

#### 1.2. Certification by Uzbek Consular in the country from which originates the document

Uzbek Consular residing in the country from which originates the document certifies signature of the authorized official of the country on the presented document. It is important to secure that all pages of the document (including letter of attorney, page of the notary public of the country of origin of the document? As well as the organ's certifying his signature) are stitched together as one document. Otherwise only the page with the legalization stamp of the Uzbek Consular shall be deemed legalized.

#### 1.3. Translation of the legalized document

Translation of the legalized document is required when original document was produced in single foreign language. However original documents could be bilingual or more: either the original is bilingual or the translation is produced prior to legalization by the Uzbek Consular. It is important that the translation contains translation of all records of officials (including stamps) prior to legalization by the Uzbek Consular. Such documents often do not require further translation if one of the languages is Uzbek or Russian and are accepted for official filing to state organs.

Translation of the legalized document should be made after legalization by the Uzbek Consular, as in this case the translator will be able to translate the Uzbek Consular's record of certification also. For the purposes of official filing documents

must be translated to Uzbek language. All Uzbekistan official bodies and non-government organizations must accept documents in Uzbek language. However certain state organs may accept the document in Russian or English languages.

1.4. Notarization of translation

If translation of the document to Uzbek or Russian language produced after legalization by the Uzbek Consular, translator's signature must be certified by the notary public practicing. The translation to Uzbek or Russian language could be performed by certified translators whose sample signatures are available with the notary officers admitted to practice in Uzbekistan.

In relation to documents originating from CIS countries such translation to Russian or Uzbek language also could be certified by local notary officers and such documents shall be admitted for official circulation in Uzbekistan (due to Uzbekistan's international obligations).

2. Legalization in the territory of Uzbekistan:

2.1. Certification of the document by the Consular of the country of origin of the document

A Consular representing the foreign country from which originates the document certifies the signature of the official or authorized representative on the document.

2.2. Certification of the document by the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan certifies signature and stamp of the Consular representing the foreign country.

2.3. Translation in Uzbekistan

A certified translator in Uzbekistan accomplishes translation of the document from the original foreign language to Uzbek or Russian language (if the original document was not translated prior to certification by foreign consular).

2.4. Certification of translator's signature by notary public in Uzbekistan

A notary public in Uzbekistan certifies signature of the translator.

2.5. Practical restrictions for the document, legalized within the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

As far as we know from practice, legalization within the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan is not applicable for purposes of registration, for example, like registration of a legal entity with foreign investments and accreditation of a representative office of a foreign company in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

There are state fees and service fees chargeable by the official bodies for the performance of official certifications. Translators and notary officers also charge fees for their services.