

RED CARPET PROGRAM (RCP)

Introduction to the Red Carpet Program

The RCP aims to facilitate simple procedures for obtaining Danish Schengen visas for applicants who regularly travel to Denmark for business purposes.

The RCP is offered to entities with business partnerships in Denmark provided they meet the requirements i.e.:

- Local subsidiaries of Danish companies,
- Local companies with a subsidiary in Denmark,
- A local company with an exclusive partnership with a Danish company,
- A local company whose employees need to travel frequently to Denmark for business,
- Local companies with an interest in investing in Denmark,
- Local institutions which cooperate closely with similar Danish institutions and have a need to e.g. send experts to Denmark,
- NGO's e.g. participating in DANIDA projects.

RCP benefits

As a general rule, the RCP offers the following benefits. It is however up to each Mission to adapt the program to local conditions. This means that in some countries the RCP may find very wide use whereas in other countries the use will be more limited:

1- Decision within three working days

The visa processing time under RCP should not exceed 3 working days counting from the day the Mission receives the application and judges the application to be admissible.

However in countries such as in Lebanon where a Schengen consultation is necessary, the processing time is 8 working days.

2- Reduced documentation requirements

The RCP offers a more flexible and simple procedure for handling applications. This entails that the RCP applicant may provide less documents than a normal applicant. It will however still be the Mission that will decide which additional supporting documents will have to be submitted by an RCP applicant on a case to case basis.

Mandatory documents when lodging an application

- 1- Completed and signed application form,
- 2- Valid travel document (typically a passport but another travel document can be used if Denmark recognizes the document), issued within the previous 10 years, with a validity of at least three months after the intended date of departure from the territory of the Schengen states and in case of several visits, after the last intended date of departure from the Schengen states, and the document shall contain at least two blank pages,
- 3- Present one photograph (recently taken),
- 4- Applicant should pay the visa fee (and the fee to the outsourcing company),
- 5- Adequate and valid Travel Medical Insurance must be presented. The TMI has to be valid in all Schengen states and with coverage of 30,000 Euro as a minimum. In the case where a multiple entries visa is issued, the applicant shall prove that the insurance is adequate and valid for the first intended visit. The applicants must sign the statement in the application form, declaring that they are aware of the need to be in possession of travel medical insurance for subsequent stays,
- 6- Completed and signed invitation form from the company/organization in Denmark,
- 7- A supporting letter in original from the local entity, signed by an authorized representative mentioned in the accreditation agreement,

Other additional supporting documents may be required by the Mission on a case to case basis.

3- No need to apply in person

It should be noted, that all first time travelers must apply in person, while persons who have previously travelled to and left the Schengen area do not necessarily need to apply personally.

The “no need to apply in person” only applies if fingerprints were collected from the applicant as part of an earlier application less than 59 months before the date of the new application. In this case, the Mission may copy the prints to the subsequent application.

In the case where the Mission is not able to copy the prints to the subsequent application, the applicant will then have to pass by the Mission to record biometrics.

In this case an authorized representative from the entity can deliver the application and all necessary documentation.

4- No need for appointment

Being outsourced, a prior appointment with TLS contact is required to file a visa application.

5- Multiple-entry visas

A multiple entries visa valid from 1 up to 5 years is usually granted to applicants under the RCP unless the Mission assesses the individual case otherwise.

Adapting the program to local conditions

According to the Executive Order on Alien's Access to Denmark on the basis of a visa, Lebanon falls in main group 4 where its citizens are generally deemed to pose a high degree of risk of illegal immigration in Denmark or other Schengen countries.

In countries where there is a high risk of illegal activities/misuse of a visa, the requirements for accrediting entities are reflected. This would for example put limits as to the entities that may be considered for the program. In addition the group of persons who can be included will be more limited (e.g. only high ranking representatives should be accepted).

How to accredit entities

The accreditation approval is handled and decided upon by the Danish Mission. A condition for using the agreement is that the main destination for the travelers must always be Denmark.

Entities that wish to be part of the RCP will receive the below documents by email from the Mission:

- 1) Agreement: Red Carpet Program (Annex A)
- 2) Confirmation letter from the Danish business partner (Annex B)
- 3) Legalized copy of the entities Business license
- 4) RCP supporting letter form for each individual applicant (Annex C)

Time period for an accreditation agreement

An RCP agreement is generally limited to 3 years. An agreement may be renewed for additional 3 or 5 year periods provided that the entity continues to fulfil the requirements.

An accreditation can be refused or revoked

The mission is solely responsible for making a decision regarding an application under the RCP. Consequently it is up to the mission to decide whether to accept an application or to reject it. This means that the mission's decision is final.

If an application is rejected, the entity may of course continue to send visa applications to the mission, however, these will be handled according to the normal procedures.

An accreditation may be revoked if the entity is found to have obtained it by knowingly giving the authorities false information. The accreditation can also be revoked if the entity no longer meets the requirements on which it is based. Furthermore, the accreditation may be revoked if the visas issued to persons who are to visit the company are misused repeatedly, for example, if the visa holder applies for asylum while in Denmark, or otherwise misuses the visa in such a way as to be given a penalty period

Processing time

The accreditation is usually processed within 15 days of the Mission receiving the request.

Sanctions

When a case of misuse by an entity has been clearly established after the required hearing process, the following steps have to be taken:

- 1- The contract must be cancelled and the company will be barred from entering a new contract for a minimum of three years. In severe cases the entity will be barred completely without future possibility to join the program.

An individual from this entity will of course still be able to apply for a visa, but in such instances the application will be processed as any ordinary application.

The entity will be informed in writing about the cancellation and that any pending visa applications will be processed according to normal procedures.

Visas already granted but not used will be cancelled and thus barring the traveler from entering the Schengen area.

- 2- The Mission must inform the local Schengen Missions about the black listing of the entity and the reasons for taking this decision.