



New templates and formats for residence documents for EU citizens and their family members apply from August 2nd, 2021

On August 2nd, 2021, the provisions of the act of December 10, 2020 amending the act on entering the territory of the Republic of Poland, residence and departure from this territory of nationals of Member States of the European Union and their family members and certain other acts (Journal of Laws, item 2369) and executive orders come into forceⁱ, introducing **new templates and formats of residence documents issued to EU citizens, i.e. the citizens of EU Member States, Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein and Switzerland and their family members.**

The documents issued up to August 1st, 2021, remain in force throughout their validity period, however not longer than until August 3rd, 2026.

The amendment aims to introduce the *Regulation (EU) 2019/1157 of the European Parliament and the Council of 20 June 2019 on strengthening the security of identity cards of Union citizens and of residence documents issued to Union citizens and their family members exercising their right of free movement (OJ L 188/67 of 12.07.2019, p. 67)*, as well as to improve the format of the certificate for registration of stay for a EU citizen under national law regulation.

1) Zaświadczenie o zarejestrowaniu pobytu obywatela UE [Certificate for registration of stay for a EU citizen] will be issued on a new, secure template beginning on 2 August 2021, similar to the residence card. The document will contain a biometric photograph of the holder. However, the image of the holder's fingerprints will not be included in the document. The front side of the document is going to show the two-letter code of the issuing Member State (i.e. PL), printed in negative in a blue rectangle surrounded by 12 yellow stars.

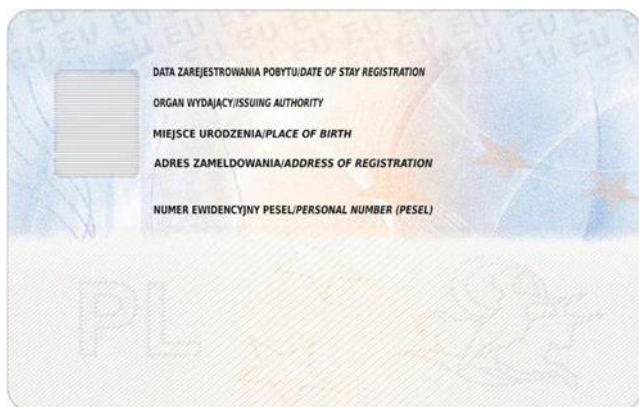
The certificate for registration of stay for a EU citizen will remain valid for 10 years.

The certificate is going to include an annotation stating, "Directive 2004/38/EC".





URZĄD DO SPRAW CUDZOZIEMCÓW



2) Dokument potwierdzający prawo stałego pobytu [*Document certifying the right of permanent residence*] (for EU citizen) will be issued on a new template, in a secure format similar to the previous residence card, containing a biometric photograph of the holder beginning on August 2nd, 2021. However, the image of the holder's fingerprints will not be included in the document. The front side of the document is going to show the two-letter code of the issuing Member State (i.e. PL), printed in negative in a blue rectangle surrounded by 12 yellow stars.

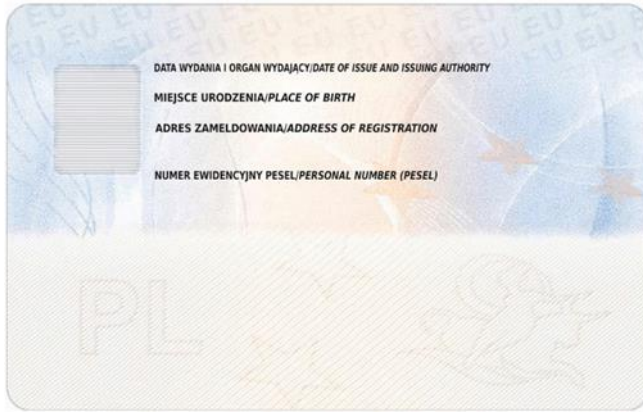
Document certifying the right of permanent residence will remain valid for 10 years.

The certificate is going to include an annotation stating, "Directive 2004/38/EC".





URZĄD DO SPRAW CUDZOZIEMCÓW



3) Karta pobytowa [Residence card] [...] (for a family member of a non-EU citizen) will be issued in place of the residence card of a family member of an EU citizen beginning on 2nd August 2021.

The residence card will be issued in accordance with the format laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 of 13 June 2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals (OJ L 253, 11.10.2002, p. 1).

In addition to the biometric photograph, it is going to contain a security feature in the form of the holder's fingerprint image.

The residence card is going to remain valid for a period of up to 5 years.

The residence card is going to contain the following annotation in the “permit type” field: “family member of an EU citizen, Article 10 of Directive 2004/38/EC.”





URZĄD DO SPRAW CUDZOZIEMCÓW



4) Karta stałego pobytu [Permanent residence card](for a family member of a non-EU citizen) will be issued in place of the permanent residence card of a family member of an EU citizen beginning on 2nd August 2021.

The permanent residence card will be issued in accordance with the format laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 of 13 June 2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals (OJ L 253, 11.10.2002, p. 1).

In addition to the biometric photograph, it is going to contain a security feature in the form of the holder's fingerprint image.

The permanent residence card will remain valid for 10 years.

The permanent residence card is going to contain the following annotation in the “permit type” field: “family member of an EU citizen, Article 20 of Directive 2004/38/EC.”





The validity of the currently issued documents:

Residence certificates of EU citizens, residence cards of the EU citizen family members, documents confirming the right of permanent residence and permanent residence cards of EU citizens issued to EU citizens or non-EU family members until August 1st, 2021, **shall remain valid for the period for which they were issued, however not longer than until August 3rd, 2026.**

Obtaining a new certificate for registration of stay for a EU citizen:

Within the period **from August 2nd, 2021, to August 3rd, 2026**, an EU citizen who has obtained a certificate of registration of residence of an EU citizen by 1 August 2021 may be issued, at his or her request, with a new certificate of registration of residence of an EU citizen on the new template, given the current paper format of these documents. The application shall be submitted to the voivode having jurisdiction over the place of residence.

Proceedings not completed by August 1st, 2021:

Proceedings on the registration of residence of an EU citizen or on the exchange of a certificate on the registration of residence of an EU citizen initiated and not concluded by August 1st, 2021, will result in the issuance or exchange of a certificate on the registration of residence of an EU citizen according to a new model, unless there are grounds for a negative decision.

Similarly, proceedings to issue or replace a document confirming the right of permanent residence, to issue or replace a residence card of a family member of an EU citizen or a permanent residence card of a family member of an EU citizen, initiated and not concluded by August 1st, 2021, will conclude with the issuance or replacement of a document on the new template, unless there are grounds for a negative decision.



URZĄD DO SPRAW CUDZOZIEMCÓW

A non-EU citizen family member who reaches the age of 6 years on August 2nd, 2021, at the latest, will be issued or exchanged with a residence card or permanent residence card after taking fingerprints, unless taking fingerprints is physically impossible. This requirement may be waived in justified cases, including on the basis of the health status of a family member who is not an EU citizen.

ⁱ Rozporządzenie Ministra Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji z dnia 26 lipca 2021 r. w sprawie wniosków i dokumentów dotyczących prawa pobytu na terytorium Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej obywateli Unii Europejskiej oraz członków ich rodzin (Dz. U. poz. 1392)

Rozporządzenie Ministra Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji z dnia 26 lipca 2021 r. w sprawie wniosków i dokumentów dotyczących prawa stałego pobytu na terytorium Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej obywateli Unii Europejskiej oraz członków ich rodzin (Dz. U. poz. 1391)