

The European Communities (International Protection Procedures) Regulations 2022 and the International Protection Act 2015 (Procedures and Periods for Appeals) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 FAQ's

Q. When will these Regulations come into force?

A. These Regulations will take effect from 8th of November 2022.

Q. What is the purpose of these Regulations?

A. The main purpose of these new regulations is to establish an accelerated process for international protection applicants from safe countries of origin.

Q. What countries does this apply to?

A. The countries covered by the new Regulations include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of North Macedonia, Georgia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Republic of Albania, Republic of Serbia and Republic of South Africa.

Q. Why are these Regulations being introduced now?

A. 2022 has seen a significant rise in applications for International Protection, with **more than 11,000** applications to made to date. More than 25% (over 2,800) of these application are coming from Safe Countries of Origin. The increase in applications has had an impact on processing times.

The introduction of the accelerated procedure will allow for a person from a safe country to have their case dealt with in a more timely manner.

Q. Does this mean my application for International Protection will be treated differently because I am from a Safe Country?

A. No - these accelerated procedures for safe country of origin applicants will be the same process as all other international protection applicants. The only difference is that a person from a safe country can have their case dealt with in a more timely manner. It is intended that when most applicants from a safe country apply for protection, they will be given the date for their substantive (S35) interview on the same day.

Q. How do I make an application under the accelerated process?

A. The application process remains the same for applicants. You will attend at reception at the International Protection Office (IPO) and you will complete a preliminary interview for consideration as to whether or not your application is admissible and can be accepted by the IPO. You will also fill out a short Questionnaire regarding your application and the reasons you are looking for protection.

Q. Will I have assistance to complete the forms on the day?

A. Yes – the International Protection Office will have Translation services available to support you in completing your Questionnaire.

Q. Will I still be able to obtain legal advice?

A. Yes – it is still open to you to seek legal advice in respect of any aspect of the international protection process at any stage of your application.