



## The National Agency for Welcoming Foreigners and Migrations (ANAEM – formerly OMI)

### Objective : integration in France!

October 2005

The Office of International Migrations (“*Office des Migrations Internationales*” - OMI) changed its name. According to the Law n° 2005-32 of January 18, 2005 (articles 143 and following), its new name is the “National Agency for Welcoming Foreigners and Migrations” (“*Agence nationale de l'accueil des étrangers et de l'intégration*” - ANAEM). This new agency is made up of both the former OMI, which was mainly working in the field of administrative procedures, and the former SSAE (Social Service for Helping Migrants), which was mainly involved with social affairs. The way the new ANAEM works is established by the decree n° 2005-381 of March 20, 2005 (*Journal Officiel* of March 24, 2005) and is put into application as of July 28, 2005.

The ANAEM is in charge of the medical visit that every foreign national has to undergo upon his/her very first arrival in France in order to receive a residency permit (1). It is also in charge of the “social audit” that the French authorities offer to every foreign national wishing to settle in France permanently<sup>1</sup> (2). This “social audit” is part of the “Welcome and Integration Contract” that the foreign national may sign (article n° L 117-1 of the Code of Social action and the families) and offers him/her, depending upon each individual need, language classes and help in job finding.

The medical visit is obligatory for all, but the “Welcome and Integration Contract” is only for those who wish to settle in France permanently. This contract is optional.

#### 1. The OMI medical visit: why, how?

##### ➤ why a medical visit? who must pass it?

Article L 341-2 of the Labor Code (“*Code du Travail*”), as added by Law n° 73-4 of January 2, 1973, provides that “to enter France for the purpose of exercising a salaried profession, the foreign national must present not only the documents and visas called for by international treaties and the applicable regulations, but also a work contract endorsed (“*visé*”) by the Ministry

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<sup>1</sup> Those are only part of what the ANAEM offers. It also offers help to foreign nationals who want to go back to their country of origin and to French people who want to go abroad.

of Labor or a work permit and a medical certificate”. This medical certificate is issued after a medical visit organized by the French authorities.

A ministerial decree of July 30, 1986 extends the need for a medical certificate to all foreign nationals coming to France for more than three months, whether or not they intend to work. This requirement has been waived for the nationals of the original fifteen European Union member countries<sup>2</sup>, as well as for the nationals of Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway and Switzerland.

### ➤ Why the ANAEM?

According to the Law of January 18, 2005, the ANAEM is in charge of “all administrative, **sanitary** and social actions” as defined by the article L 341-9 of the Labor Code. It includes the medical visit every foreign national has to pass in order to come to France.

### ➤ What does the visit include?

The main purpose of the medical visit is to detect and treat the persons suffering from tuberculosis of the lungs. For this reason, the visit includes a chest X-ray.

The applicant is also weighed and measured, this eyesight checked, and his urine analyzed. Thereupon a physician undertakes a general clinical check-up. If the applicant’s state of health calls for it, additional medical examinations and, where appropriate, a medical treatment may be prescribed.

It is thus most important that the applicant should bring with him for this visit all his health records and vaccination certificates, as well as his eyeglasses if he wears any. Pregnant women should bring a pregnancy certificate.

**Children accompanying their parents (or parent) to France must also undergo this medical visit.** French law requires that any child of less than fifteen years of age should be vaccinated against some illnesses, in particular diphtheria, tetanus, polio and tuberculosis. In order to avoid double vaccinations, it is thus important to bring their vaccination certificates for the medical visit.

### ➤ Where does the medical visit take place?

The medical visit takes place in the ANAEM offices, or its delegations, in the cities mentioned on the following map.

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<sup>2</sup> Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.



*This map is available on the ANAEM's web site :  
<http://www.social.gouv.fr/btm/actu/anaem/sommaire.htm>*

According to the ANAEM's web site, the new agency “strengthens its presence in the main immigration regions (Ile-de-France, Rhône, Bouche-du-Rhône, Nord, ...) and has offices with, in average, 4 to 5 employees in 23 new sub-regions (“départements”) to ensure the initial welcoming

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of the migrants recently and legally arrived in France, whose vocation is to stay in France permanently”.

Applicants who live in other regions of France will be asked to appear in a center close to their domicile, approved by the ANAEM to carry out these medical examinations.

Lastly, the ANAEM also has offices in some foreign countries: Mali, Morocco, Poland, Quebec, Romania, Senegal, Singapore, Tunisia and Turkey.<sup>3</sup> If the applicant is a citizen of one of these countries, the medical visit may take place there.

**Be sure not to lose the medical clearance certificate issued to you upon completion of the medical visit: you will need it to obtain your residence and work permits.**

## 2. The “Welcome and Integration Contract” (“*contrat d’accueil et d’intégration*”)

With a budget of 78 millions euros and about 1000 employees<sup>4</sup>, the ANAEM is in charge of the “Welcome and Integration Contract”, which is now being tested in several sub-regions. 60.000 of those contracts have been signed since July 2003. They will be extended to the entire French territory in 2006. It should therefore be offered to 120.000 foreign nationals next year. The aim of this contract is to involve the new arrivals in a process of “discovery and acceptance of French society and its values”.<sup>5</sup>

Under this contract, all persons concerned will be given a “social audit”. During a day’s civic briefing, the foreign national will watch a video presenting France and a social worker will receive him/her in person and will evaluate his/her level of French, as well as his/her personal and professional situations. This social audit can result in offering some language training and specific helps in job finding. Upon request, one may benefit from more concrete aids so as to his/her installation in France in a day-long program called “living in France”.

Signing such a contract is not mandatory. Nevertheless, note that doing so will have an impact on your application for a 10-year residency card (which you can apply for after five years of living in France). It will also be helpful in the change of status and family regrouping applications.

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<sup>3</sup> The OMI also has offices in Spain, Italy and the Netherlands, but citizens of these countries are not required to undergo these medical examinations.

<sup>4</sup> According to the ANAEM’s web site.

<sup>5</sup> Cf, internet site of the Social Affairs Ministry: [www.social.gouv.fr/htm/pointsur/accueil/cai\\_experiment.htm](http://www.social.gouv.fr/htm/pointsur/accueil/cai_experiment.htm).

Consequently, you should not be surprised when offered to sign such a contract. You may refuse, but we would advise you to accept it if you intend to remain in France permanently.

**NB : seconded workers and top-managers, who are not in the process of permanently settling in France, are not concerned with this contract.**

### 3. Family Regrouping

The decree n° 2005-253 of March 17, 2005 (*Journal Officiel* of March 19, 2005) specifies that in certain departments, the family regrouping applications have to be submitted directly to the ANAEM and not the *Préfecture* (nor the DDASS). The following documents are needed : civil status of all members of the family (marriage and birth certificates), residency permit, income certificate, housing certificate (property title, lease, ...). The city hall and ANAEM employees may check the income and housing situation.

### 4. The ANAEM fee

Any employer who wants to bring a foreign worker to France must do so through the ANAEM, and is required to pay a **flat fee of 168 euros** to that body. On top of this flat fee, employers of **permanent** foreign workers are required to pay another fee. The amount of this second fee was revised in August 2004, by decree n° 2004-872 of August 25, 2004 (thus modifying article n° 1 of decree n° 75-754 of August 11, 1975):

“The amount of the flat fee to be paid to the Office for International Migrations pursuant to article of the 1975 Financial Law by any employer who hires a foreign worker on a permanent basis through that body is set at **725 Euro per worker. This amount will be increased to 1444 Euro if the worker’s gross monthly salary is higher than 1525 Euro.**”

Therefore, **the total amount** of what needs to be paid to the ANAEM for a permanent foreign worker is:

- **893 euros** if the worker is paid less than 1525 euros a month
- **1612 euros** if the worker is paid more than 1525 euros a month.

Employers of **temporary** foreign workers are not required to pay the second fee. They only need to pay the first flat fee of 168 euros. The total amount of what they need to pay to the ANAEM is therefore 168 euros.



## **ANNEXE : who is concerned with the “Welcome and Integration Contract”?**

*Articles 12 bis, 12 ter and 15 of the ordinance n° 45-2658 of November 2, 1945  
Modified by the so-called Sarkozy law of November 26, 2003*

- Family regrouping beneficiaries
- Foreigner nationals members of a French citizen's family
- Refugees and their family
- People having personal and family ties in France
- People whose residence is in France for the past 10 year
- People born in France having lived in France for eight years
- Beneficiaries of financial allowance after a work injury or sickness
- Holders of temporary residence permit under subsidiary protection
- Holders of a 10-year residency permit having served in the French Army
- Foreigner nationals legally residing in France since 10 years
- Permanent workers

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