Latvia's Fast-track initiative

The **Fast-track initiative** gives Latvia-registered companies priority access to government services. Projects can be approved up to **twice as fast**, ensuring quicker, more predictable implementation.

Investment projects can receive the following and other* **process approvals twice faster** than required by law:

Construction

faster approvals and lower administrative burden, shortening key regulatory timelines, such as construction documentation review and issuance of technical regulations

30 → 15 days

Environmental Impact Assessment

more predictable procedures through structured cooperation with competent authorities, enabling priority handling and reduced municipal evaluation timelines

60 → 30 days

Migration

accelerated processing of procedures for foreign specialists, including residence permits and employment documentation, shortening EU Blue Card issuance timelines

20 → 10 days

*see appendix for a full list of administrative procedures and services available.

*Priority sectors:

- ✓ Security and defense
- ✓ Knowledge-intensive bioeconomy
- ✓ Biomedicine, medical technologies, and pharmaceuticals
- ✓ Photonics and smart materials, technologies, engineering systems
- ✓ Smart energy, mobility, net-zero emission technologies
- ✓ Information and communication technologies
- ✓ Construction, transport, or logistics, if the project is related to the services listed in points 1-5
- ✓ Tourism and international events
- ✓ Construction of affordable rental housing and social housing
- ✓ Operation and service provision of international business service centers
- ✓ Projects in which the average employee salary in the previous reporting year is not less than the average employee salary in the EU for the same period

Fast-track status is valid for **36 months**

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Eligibility criteria
(company must meet at least one):

1. In the last reporting year:
   - export amount at least **10 million EUR**,
   - at least **50 employees** in Latvia.
2. Planned investment project has been granted either the status of a **net-zero emissions** strategic project or the status of a strategic project for **critical raw materials**.
3. **Planned:**
   - investment at least **5 million EUR** (in Riga – at least 10 million EUR) **in the priority sector***
   - at least **20 new jobs** created in 3 years after project implementation,
   - has available financial resources for the investment in the amount of min. 5 /10 million EUR.
4. Planned investment is **production of weapons, ammunition or military equipment** (must receive confirmation from the Ministry of Defence about compliance).

! In case of priority application surge in a certain institution, the first served are **military** projects, and others are prioritized by planned **investment amount**, largest being served first.

Not eligible to receive "Fast-track" status:

- Companies with a tax rating of C (poor tax record).
- Companies subject to international or national sanctions.
- Companies with decisive influence of Russian or Belarussian origin.

Application process for "fast-track" status

Companies with eligibility criteria 1 or 2 do not have to apply for the status - status is granted **automatically**, based on:
- publicly available financial report data, or
- EC or LIAA decision.

Companies with eligibility criteria 3 or 4 apply for the status by submitting **an application form to LIAA**:
- through e-service in liaa.business.gov.lv
- signed electronically and sent to: pasts@liaa.gov.lv, or
- signed by hand and sent to LIAA, Pērses iela 2, LV-1442.

Application form can be found here.

LIAA evaluates the compliance and **makes a decision** about granting "Fast-track" status within 10 working days.

When the status is granted, **LIAA adds the company to the "Fast-track" company list**.

Application process for an administrative service

Understand which procedure in which agency the company needs. → Apply for it, following agency's application procedures, forms and methods. → Make sure that it is noted in the application that the company has "fast-track status" by ticking a relevant box or writing "fast-track" manually in "additional information" part. → Government agency checks if the company is on the list. If it is, the application is taken out of the queue and processed right away, and completed in half the time required by law.

In case of a **construction process**, all applications are submitted through the BIS system. In order for the Building Authority to see that the project is "fast-track", the building project must bear an electronic **PIPA status**, which the company must first request via the same BIS system.

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APPENDIX

A full list of administrative procedures and processes that can be received in a "fast-track" manner for eligible companies' investment projects:

- Construction status survey, review of **construction documentation** (30 15 days*)
- Evaluation of **electronic communications network** installation projects, decision-making and operational readiness testing (20 10 days*)
- Coordination, verification and registration of **topographic information** (28 14 days*)
- **Territorial planning documents**, evaluation and approval (28 14 days*)
- **Environmental impact assessment** processes and evaluation in municipalities (60 30 days*)
- Entry, stay, transit, exit and detention of foreigners (**residence permits**)(30 15 days*)
- Issuance of the **European Union Blue Card** (20 10 days*)
- Issuance of an **administrative act** (4 →2 months)

and other:

- Development and approval of **sustainable development strategies** and development programs
- Processing of registration and data update of a **cadastral object**
- Procedure for submitting applications for confirmation requests for **mortgages**
- **Cadastral survey** of groups of buildings and premises
- Update and contestation of the **purpose and area of land plot**
- Cadastral survey of land (**mapping**)
- Coordination of **land development project** and approval
- Issuing, registering, extending, annulling and revoking a **visa**
- Issuance, amendment and refusal of **permits for polluting activities**
- Issuance of **protection zone** coordination and **permits for activities along roads and railways**
- Issue of an opinion on the readiness of the **electronic communications network** for operation
- Provision of information on access to and use of the **natural gas system**

**with fast-track "status". All days mentioned are business days.*