



REGERINGSKANSLIET

**Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden**

Protocol Department

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Diplomatic Missions, Career Consular Posts and Offices of International Organisations in Sweden and has the honour to convey the following information regarding the subject of personal identity numbers (“personnummer”) and co-ordination numbers (“samordningsnummer”).

1) Present situation

Personal identity numbers are assigned only to persons registered in the Swedish population register (“folkbokförda”). Foreign members of diplomatic missions, career consular posts and offices of international organisations are included in this register only if they are already residing in Sweden the moment they take up their duties. The same applies to family members and private servants. This means that most persons in this group are not registered in the population register and are consequently not assigned personal identity numbers. They can, however, be assigned a co-ordination number (“samordningsnummer”). A co-ordination number consists of ten digits but with the figure for the day of birth increased by the number 60 (e.g. 701063-2391 for a person born 3 October 1970).

The Diplomatic Corps in Stockholm has, on several occasions, drawn the attention of the Ministry to various practical problems associated with the current use of such co-ordination numbers in Swedish society.

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2) Proposal regarding personal identity numbers

Since last September an Inquiry has been working on an overall review of Swedish legislation regarding the population register, personal identity numbers and co-ordination numbers. Bearing in mind the problems experienced by the Diplomatic Corps, the Inquiry was specifically instructed to propose a solution to the matter of the current co-ordination numbers.

In a report to the Government, the Inquiry has now presented its proposals regarding co-ordination numbers. The Inquiry suggests that members of the Diplomatic Corps should instead be assigned *personal identity numbers* if they so wish, on the condition that it may be assumed that their stay in Sweden will last for at least one year. The Inquiry proposes that the necessary legislative changes enter into force by 1 January 2009.

The report will soon be submitted for expert opinions to various relevant bodies in Sweden, including the Diplomatic Corps through its Regional Deans. Taking into account the comments received, the Government is then expected to present its proposal in a bill to the Riksdag, which will eventually take a decision on the matter.

This means that new rules regarding personal identity numbers for members of the Diplomatic Corps, if ultimately proposed by the Government and passed by the Riksdag, might enter into force by 2009 at the earliest.

3) Interim solution regarding co-ordination numbers

In the meantime, however, some changes to the current rules relating to co-ordination numbers have been decided on as an interim solution. The purpose of these changes is to alleviate some of the practical problems associated with these numbers, while awaiting the above-mentioned new legislation on personal identity numbers. The main element is that from 1 June 2008, the Swedish Population Address Register (SPAR) may, in addition to persons registered in the Swedish population register, also contain data on persons with a co-ordination number. This change, which will be fully operational as from 1 October 2008, would enable Swedish authorities and companies connected to

SPAR to directly verify a co-ordination number. Hence, co-ordination numbers should soon function better in many everyday situations and transactions.

Members of the Diplomatic Corps who have not already been assigned a co-ordination number, but who wish to make such a registration, should use the enclosed form, 'Rekvisition Samordningsnummer, SKV 7824'. The document should be sent to the Protocol Department, which in turn will request a co-ordination number from the Swedish Tax Agency. For newly arrived members of the Diplomatic Corps, the form should be submitted to the Protocol Department along with the usual notification form (see chapter 2 of the Comprehensive Guide to Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities in Sweden, www.sweden.gov.se/mfa/cd).

Members of the Diplomatic Corps who have already been assigned co-ordination numbers should, in order to be included in SPAR, notify the Protocol Department of the address they wish to appear in SPAR. It is, of course, possible to state the official address of the Diplomatic Mission, Consular Post or International Organisation, should the person not wish his/her private address to appear in SPAR.

Any questions regarding co-ordination numbers can be directed to the Protocol Department (Ms Ann Ståhlbrandt, tel + 46 8 405 56 08, Ms Wiveka Eklund Carlsson, tel +46 8 405 56 44, or Ms Margareta Hjertqvist tel +46 8 405 56 07).

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Diplomatic Missions, Career Consular Posts and Offices of International Organisations in Sweden the assurances of its highest consideration.

Stockholm, 9 June 2008