

constructions – legal changes published in November 2017

The Order of the Minister of Culture and National Identity no. 2797/2017 establishing the types of interventions for historical monuments and buildings in their protection areas or in protected zones which are of little relevance to the historical substance and/or are of temporary nature and the conditions under which notices may be issued without consulting the National Commission for Historical Monuments, as well as the regional commissions for historical monuments was published in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, no. 918 of 22 November 2017.

The order establishes the possibility of issuing approvals on technical documentation by the Ministry of Culture or its deconcentrated departments without consulting the National Commission for Historical Monuments or the regional commissions for historical monuments ("**historical monuments commissions**") for types of interventions on historical monuments and buildings in their protection areas or in protected zones that have little or no effect on the historical substance and/or are temporary.

The Order was adopted both as a result of the large number of documentations that have little or no impact on the historical substance and/or are temporary, and due to the fact that, taking into account the irregular meeting of the historical monuments commissions, the process of approving technical documentation was considerably hindered.

Consequently, the order details the types of interventions on historical monuments, buildings in their protected areas or in protected zones, and related conditions that have little or no effect on the historical substance and/or are temporary.

Among them it can be mentioned:

- (i) repair works on supporting walls, terraces, embankments, if they are made using materials compatible with the historical ones or have the same finishing materials, and do not interfere with more than 10% of the wall surface;
- (ii) current repairs to fences, new fencing or temporary enclosure replacements, if such enclosures are built after 1960; no plastic products and no more than two colours and up to two visible types of material may be used;
- (iii) the installation of individual air conditioners, if such are located in areas where they are not visible or discreetly placed and do not affect the public perception of the historical monument;
- (iv) installation of security and surveillance systems at historical monuments, discreetly located, with minimal interventions, avoiding their direct placement on the historical monument building;
- (v) the location of logos, memorial plaques or other signs, provided that they do not exceed 0.5 x 0.5 meters and contain no more than two colours of those found in the historic façades of the building façade, or of those in the neighbourhood without the use of shiny, glossy or reflective colours.