

# 4.2. Conscription

## 4.2. Conscription

### 4.2.1. General regulations

According to Article 59 of the Constitution, all Russian citizens have ‘a duty and obligation’ to defend the country.’ The same Article stipulates that every citizen is obliged to ‘carry out military service according to the federal law.’[739] One-year military service is compulsory for all Russian men[740] aged between 18 and 30 years old.[741] The upper conscription age was raised from 27 years as of 1 January 2024.[742] Upon completion of the mandatory military service, conscripts are transferred to the inactive mobilisation reserve,[743] and are eligible for future call-ups.[744]

The military draft for obligatory military service is carried out semi-annually: between 1 April and 15 July and between 1 October and 31 December. Three groups of Russian nationals have different conscription periods: residents of the Far North or certain areas equated to the Far North (from 1 May to 15 July and from 1 November to 31 December), conscripts living in rural areas and engaged in sowing or harvesting works (only fall conscription from 15 October to 31 December is carried out), and teaching staff (conscription is organised only in spring, between 1 May and 15 July).[745]

On 28 October 2025, the State Duma adopted a draft law to replace the existing bi-annual conscription process with a year-round draft, allowing military enlistment offices to organise medical and psychological examinations and conscription board meetings throughout the year.[746] The law was signed by President Putin on 4 November 2025.[747] Under the new law, effective from 1 January 2026,[748] the duration of the conscription periods is to be determined by a presidential decree (each year), [749] while the dispatch of conscripts to military units will take place between 1 April and 15 July and between 1 October and 31 December.[750]

As per Article 25 of the Federal Law on Military Duty and Military Service, conscription is carried out upon a presidential order, which also determines the number of conscripts to be drafted.[751] In 2025, the government decided to conscript a total of 295 000 men (160 000 in spring[752] and 135 00 in autumn[753]), which is the highest number in nine years.[754]

On 21 April 2025, President Putin signed a law allowing men of conscription age who had received conscription summonses and completed conscription procedures, such as medical examinations, but were not assigned to military service, to be drafted within a year without repeating the conscription procedures.[755] While the law became effective on 1 October 2025,

according to human rights groups that support conscripts, in Moscow this practice was already applied in October 2024.[756] Similarly to previous years, in 2025, the authorities stated that conscripts will serve only in Russia and not in the Russia-occupied areas of Ukraine and would not ‘conduct tasks related to the war.’[757]

As noted by Artem Klyga, in 2024, the heads of the occupied Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions officially announced the start of conscription into obligatory military service, with a representative of the Russian General Staff claiming that military enlistment offices of Donetsk and Luhansk regions met their 2024 conscription targets. According to official reports, conscripts from the occupied territories were deployed to military units in Russia’s Southern military district. The source also noted that human rights organisations helping conscripts have not recorded cases when conscripts from the occupied territories would be sent to combat; however, he also pointed out that the information regarding the occupied territories is limited as people who are willing to communicate with human rights groups face pressure.[758] According to a human rights lawyer, the fact that conscription takes place in the occupied territories in Ukraine suggests that conscripts serve there as well. However, the source similarly noted that they do not take part in combat operations.[759]

- 740

  ISW, Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, September 29, 2025, 29 September 2025, url

- 741

  ISW, Russian Force Generation And Technological Adaptations Update April 30, 2025, 30 April 2025, url

- 742

  Russia, President of Russia, Maximum conscription age raised from 27 to 30 years starting from January 1, 2024, 4 August 2023, url

- 743

  Russia, Федеральный закон “О воинской обязанности и военной службе” от 28.03.1998 N 53-ФЗ (ред. От 29.09.2025) [Federal Law “On Military Duty and Military Service” dated March 28, 1998, No. 53-FZ (amended 29.09.2025)], 29 September 2025, url , Art. 52

- 744

  ISW, Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, September 29, 2025, 29 September 2025, url

- 745

  Russia, Федеральный закон “О воинской обязанности и военной службе” от 28.03.1998 N 53-ФЗ (ред. От 29.09.2025) [Federal Law “On Military Duty and Military

Service” dated March 28, 1998, No. 53-FZ (amended 29.09.2025)], 29 September 2025, url , Art. 25

- 746

  Novaya Gazeta – Europe, Russian parliament adopts draft law on year-round conscription, 28 October 2025, url

- 747

  Moscow Times (The), Putin Signs Law Moving Russia to Year-Round Military Draft, 4 November 2025, url

- 748

  Novaya Gazeta – Europe, Russian parliament adopts draft law on year-round conscription, 28 October 2025, url

- 749

  Artem Klyga, Online interview to EUAA, 8 October 2025

- 750

  Artem Klyga, Online interview to EUAA, 8 October 2025; Moscow Times (The), Putin Signs Law Moving Russia to Year-Round Military Draft, 4 November 2025, url

- 751

  Russia, Федеральный закон “О воинской обязанности и военной службе” от 28.03.1998 N 53-ФЗ (ред. От 29.09.2025) [Federal Law “On Military Duty and Military Service” dated March 28, 1998, No. 53-FZ (amended 29.09.2025)], 29 September 2025, url , Art. 25

- 752

  ISW, Russian Force Generation And Technological Adaptations Update April 30, 2025, 30 April 2025, url; Prizyv k sovesti et al, Resistance during the 2025 Spring Conscription, August 2025, url, p. 2

- 753

  ISW, Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, September 29, 2025, 29 September 2025, url

- 754

  Moscow Times (The), Russia’s Fall Draft To Use Digital-Only Summons in Moscow and 3 Other Regions, 30 September 2025, url; Artem Klyga, Online interview with EUAA, 8 October 2025

- 755

ISW, Russian Force Generation And Technological Adaptations Update, 30 April 2025, url

- 756

  Prizyv k sovesti et al, Resistance during the 2025 Spring Conscription, August 2025, url, p. 13

- 757

  ISW, Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, September 29, 2025, 29 September 2025, url

- 758

  Artem Klyga, Online interview with EUAA, 8 October 2025

- 759

  Human rights lawyer, Online interview with EUAA, 23 October 2025

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu