

# Law No. 3 of 1975 on Commercial, Industrial and Similar Entities that Conduct Business with the Public 3 / 1975

Number of Articles: 26

## Table of Content

### Part One (1-2)

#### Spatial Jurisdiction (1-2)

### Part Two (3-14)

#### Licenses, Terms, Procedures and Fees (3-14)

##### Chapter One (3-11)

###### Licenses, Terms, Procedures and Fees (3-11)

##### Chapter Two (12-14)

###### Waive licensing, transportation and canceled (12-14)

### Part three (15-25)

#### Penal provisions (15-25)

##### Chapter One (15-19)

###### Control and responsibility and procedures (15-19)

##### Chapter Two (20-25)

###### Penalties (20-25)

We, Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar,

Having perused the [Amended Provisional Constitution](#), in particular [Articles 23, 34, and 51](#) thereof;

[Law No. 11 of 1962](#) establishing the Commercial Register Structure, as amended;

[Law No. 11 of 1963](#) concerning Qatar Municipality, as amended;

Law No. 20 of 1963 regulating the participation of foreigners in commercial activities in Qatar, as amended;

[Law No. 13 of 1971](#) concerning the structure of the courts of justice, as amended;

[Law No. 14 of 1971](#) promulgating the Qatar Penal Code;

[Law No. 15 of 1971](#) promulgating the Criminal Procedure Law;

[Law No. 16 of 1971](#) promulgating the Law of Civil and Commercial Articles;

[Law No. 19 of 1972](#) concerning the establishment of new municipalities;

Decree-Law No. 24 of 1972 determining the functions of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs;

The proposal of the Minister of Municipal Affairs;

The draft law submitted by the Council of Ministers; and

Having consulted the *Shura* Council;

Hereby promulgate the following law:

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## Part One

### Spatial Jurisdiction

#### Article 1 (Amended By Law 20/1995)

The provisions of this law shall apply to the following premises:

Firstly: industrial and commercial premises.

Secondly: businesses selling food and drink; such as restaurants, cafes, and the likes;

Thirdly: hospitality businesses; such as hotels, guest houses and the like;

Fourthly: businesses which disturb one's comfort, or are harmful or dangerous to health.

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## [Article 2 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

The Minister of Municipal Affairs shall issue, based on a proposal by the Municipal Councils, the necessary lists of businesses, including information on each of the types of premises set out in the preceding Article.  
Such tables may be amended by addition, deletion or transfer.

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## [Part Tow](#)

### [Licenses, Terms, Procedures and Fees](#)

#### [Chapter One](#)

### [Licenses, Terms, Procedures and Fees](#)

## Article 3

Without prejudice to the provisions of *ad hoc* laws and bylaws, no premises governed by the provisions of this law may be opened or managed without a licence from the Municipality.

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## [Article 4 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

The licence referred to herein shall not be granted unless in the areas, neighbourhoods and streets specified by a resolution of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, upon the proposal of the competent Municipal Council.

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## [Article 5 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

An application to obtain a licence, accompanied by supporting information, documents, maps and architectural drawings, shall be submitted to the municipality according to the terms, conditions and forms which shall be specified by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, on the proposal of the Central Municipal Council.

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## Article 6

1. The Municipality shall indicate its preliminary view of the application no later than thirty days from the date of submission. Where the Municipality accepts the application, it shall notify the applicant in writing, with instructions regarding the payment of the inspection fees.
  2. The Municipality shall inspect the site of the business within a period not exceeding thirty days from the date of the payment of the prescribed fees, and shall notify the applicant of its approval or rejection within thirty days from the date of completion of the inspection.
  3. In the event that the site is approved, the municipality shall inform the applicant of the conditions which must be met and the implementation period. The applicant shall notify the municipality by registered letter once the required conditions have been met.
  4. The municipality shall, within thirty days from receipt of the notification, verify the implementation of the prescribed conditions and where the implementation is confirmed, the licence shall be granted together with any conditions to be met on a permanent basis.
  5. In the case of the non-implementation or non-fulfilment of the prescribed conditions, the applicant shall be granted one or more additional periods, each as long as the initial period, and an inspection shall be repeated before or at the end of each period upon the notification from the applicant that he has implemented the conditions.
  6. Where the conditions have not been implemented, the application shall be refused and the municipality shall notify the applicant of its decision within thirty days from the date of issue.
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## [Article 7 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

The following conditions relating to businesses subject to the provisions of this law shall be met:

1. General conditions shall be met in every premises or every type of business or in its location and such general conditions shall be issued based on the proposal of the Central Municipal Council and by resolution of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture. A business may be exempted from one or more of these conditions on good cause shown.
2. Special conditions shall be met in the business for which the licence application is submitted, based on resolutions made by the municipality in coordination with the competent authorities. The municipality, with the consent of the Minister, may add new conditions or remove existing conditions.

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## [Article 8 \(Amended By Law 3/1997\)](#)

The duration of the licence shall be as follows:

- 1- Consultancy Offices - three (3) years (Gregorian calendar);
- 2- Premises of other professions - one (1) year (Gregorian calendar);
- 3- Other businesses - two (2) years (Gregorian calendar).

The licence period shall be calculated from the date of the grant, and shall be renewed at the end of its period after verification of the fulfilment of the conditions stipulated by this law and the implementing resolutions thereof.

The fees payable for the entire duration of the licence shall be collected when it is granted or renewed.

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## [Article 9 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

The municipality shall, in respect of inspection of the shop and the granting and renewal of the licence, charge a fee to be determined by a resolution of the Council of Ministers, based on a proposal by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture.

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## Article 10

The municipality shall, in respect of inspection of the shop and the granting and renewal of the licence, charge a fee to be determined by a resolution of the Council of Ministers, based on a proposal by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture.

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## [Article 11 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

1. Any person licenced to open a business shall inform the municipality of the name of the manager or supervisor, and of the names of the workers before they may engage in their work.
2. The municipality shall issue the required licence to such person according to the rules, terms, conditions and models issued by a resolution of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, based on the proposal of the Central Municipal Council and the prior consent of the competent authorities.

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## Article 11 - BIS

As defined in a resolution issued by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, based on a proposal by the Central Municipal Council, the business shall close its doors and cease all work during Friday prayers for a continuous period of one and a half hours from the first call to prayer.

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## [Chapter Two](#)

### [Waive licensing, transportation and canceled](#)

## Article 12

A licence may be waived with the consent of the competent authority on the condition that the waiving party submits to the municipality an application, accompanied by the waiver and other necessary information, to transfer the licence into its name. This application shall be submitted within fifteen days of the date of the waiver.

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## Article 13

A licence may be waived with the consent of the competent authority on the condition that the waiving party submits to the municipality an application, accompanied by the waiver and other necessary information, to transfer the licence into its name. This application shall be submitted within fifteen days of the date of the waiver.

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## Article 14

The licence shall become invalid in the following circumstances:

1. Where the licence holder notifies the municipality that work has stopped at the business.
  2. Where the business is removed, even if it is rebuilt or re-established.
  3. Where modifications are made to the business or it is opened, or its management is different to that stated in the licence, and the approval of the municipality has in all cases not been obtained.
  4. Where the business has become unusable or no longer meets the conditions set out in the licence.
  5. Where there is imminent danger to the health or safety of the public, or events have occurred which are contrary to morality or public order.
  6. Where the new owner does not notify the municipality of the transfer in ownership of the business according to the provisions of this law.
  7. Where the licence has expired and not been renewed without an acceptable excuse.
  8. Where a resolution or final judgment is issued permanently closing or removing the business.
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## [Part three](#)

### [Penal provisions](#)

#### [Chapter One](#)

##### [Control and responsibility and procedures](#)

## [Article 15 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

The police, as well as municipal employees authorised by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, shall have the power to act as judicial officers in the implementation of the provisions of this law, and to prove offences which contravene it or the bylaws and resolutions implementing it.

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## [Article 16 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

In case of a violation of the provisions of this law or the bylaws or resolutions implementing it, a memorandum shall be released containing the information to be mentioned in the records, according to the form prescribed by a resolution of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, and a copy of this form shall be provided to the police station having jurisdiction over the area to take any necessary measures in accordance with law.

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## Article 17

The manager or supervisor of the business shall, along with the licence-holder, be responsible for any violation of the provisions of this law or the bylaws and resolutions implementing it.

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### [Article 18 \(Amended By Law 16/1995\)](#)

1. Without prejudice to any other sanction provided for in this law, the licence may be cancelled or the business closed administratively or removed in accordance with a reasoned resolution of the President of the Central Municipal Council.
  2. An executive decision may also be issued to close the shop completely or in part, permanently or temporarily. Such decision shall be enforced administratively.
  3. In every case it shall be necessary, before the issue of the resolution cancelling the licence or closing or removing the business, to warn the person concerned in writing to cease the violation and prevent its consequences within 15 days from the date of the warning.
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### [Article 19 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

1. Without prejudice to the powers of the courts, an appeal against the warning in the preceding article shall be permitted by a resolution issued pursuant to the provisions of this law within fifteen days from the date of the warning.
  2. The appeal and all supporting documents shall be submitted to the Minister for Municipal Affairs and Agriculture who shall rule on the appeal within thirty days from the date of its submission, and such ruling shall be final.
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## [Chapter Two](#)

### [Penalties](#)

### [Article 20 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

1. Without prejudice to any more severe penalty provided for by any other law, any person who opens or manages a business without a licence or in contravention of a licence, or against whom a judgment is issued to close or remove the business, or whose business has been closed administratively, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or to a fine of not less than one thousand riyals and not more than ten thousand riyals, or to both.
  2. In addition to the aforesaid penalties, a judgment may be issued ordering the closure of the business for a specified period or permanently, without prejudice to administrative closure or removal.
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### Article 21

1. The closure or removal shall be implemented in relation to the entire business except to any part which is separate and licenced to conduct activities of a different type. Where the circumstances do not allow for the curtailing of the closure or removal, only that part where the violation occurred shall be closed or removed.
  2. The concerned person shall be required to pay the costs of closure or removal.
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### [Article 22 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

1. A fine of not less than two hundred fifty riyals and not more than one thousand riyals, or a sentence of imprisonment for a term not exceeding two months, or both, shall be imposed for every other violation of the provisions of this law or the bylaws or resolutions implementing it.
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### [Article 23 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

1. The provisions of this Law shall apply to all businesses that fall under its jurisdiction, even where they were established before its promulgation.
  2. Businesses established before the promulgation of this Law shall comply with its provisions, regularize their status, and obtain the necessary permits within six months from the date of its promulgation.
  3. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, on the proposal of the Central Municipal Council, may extend the aforesaid period by not more than six months where necessary.
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### [Article 24 \(Amended By Law 20/1995\)](#)

The Minister for Municipal Affairs and Agriculture shall, based on a proposal by the Central Municipal Council, add provisions not covered by this law for the achievement of its objectives and he shall issue the bylaws, resolutions and forms necessary to implement such additional provisions.

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### Article 25

All competent authorities, each within its jurisdiction, shall execute this law which shall come into force on the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

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