

# Law No. 6 of 2012 on the Regulation of Tourism 6 / 2012

Number of Articles: 31

## **Table of Content**

Chapter One: Definitions (1-1)

Chapter Two: Licensing Conditions and Procedures (2-7)

Chapter Three: Obligations of the Licensee (8-13)

Chapter Four: Waive, Transfer or Cancel the Licenc (14-17)

Chapter Five: Classification of Hotel and Tourist (18-19)

Chapter Six: Tourist Guidance (20-22)

Chapter Seven: Penalties (23-25)

Chapter Eight: General Provisions (26-31)

We, Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar,  
Having perused the Constitution;  
Law No. 7 of 1982 on the regulation of travel and tourism offices;  
Emiri Resolution No. 46 of 2009 regulating the General Tourism Authority;  
The proposal of the Minister of Business and Trade;  
The draft Law submitted by the Council of Ministers; and  
After consulting the opinion of the *Shura* Council;  
Hereby promulgate the following Law:

## **Chapter One: Definitions**

### Article 1

In implementing the provisions of this Law, the following words shall have the meaning assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

“Minister” means the Minister of Business and Trade;

“Authority” means General Tourism Authority;

“President” means President of the Authority;

“Competent Department” means the competent administrative unit of tourism affairs in the Authority;

“Tourist area” means any area in the?? State that has attractive characteristics; sites of archaeological or historical interest; natural areas or areas of a climatic, environmental or vital nature, and any area deemed as a tourist area by a resolution of the Minister on the proposal of the President;

“Hotel establishment” means hotels, tourist resorts, apartments hotels, tourist camps, floating hotels, tourist vessels and other places prepared for temporary occupation by tourists, and any other establishment deemed to be an appropriate establishment for temporary occupation by tourists in accordance with a decision of the Minister on the proposal of the President;

“Tourist establishment” means places prepared mainly to receive tourists, such as entertainment establishments and specialised clubs, as well as the places allocated to provide services for tourists, such as tourism offices, offices of tourist transport, tourist guide office and time-sharing offices, and any other establishment deemed to be a tourist establishments in accordance with a decision of the Minister on the proposal of the President;

“Tourist activities” means any activity of tourist transport and associated transportation allocated to the transport of tourists on trips onshore or offshore, the activity of tourist guidance, time-sharing, and any other activity deemed to be a tourist activity in accordance with a decision of the Minister on the proposal of the President.

With the exception of necessary services to perform the Pilgrimage and Umrah:

“Licensee” means a natural or legal person licensed by the Authority to create, establish, exploit or manage a hotel or tourist establishment, or to engage in any tourist activity, in accordance with the provisions of this Law;

“Tour guide” means any person who holds a licence to practise the profession of a tourist guide and who, for a wage, undertakes the giving of explanations and guidance in tourist areas, museums or exhibitions.

## Chapter Two: Licensing Conditions and Procedures

### Article 2

The establishment, use or management of a hotel or tourist establishment or the practising of any tourist activity shall be prohibited unless a licence has been obtained from the Authority in accordance with the requirements and regulations established by this Law and the implementing regulations thereof.

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### Article 3

The application for the licence shall be submitted to the relevant department on the form prepared for that purpose and shall be accompanied by the necessary documents. The person in whose name the licence is issued shall be responsible for the validity of the submitted data and documents relating to the right to such person's licence.

The Regulations shall specify the necessary conditions and controls to grant the licence.

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### Article 4

The relevant department shall decide on the application and shall notify the applicant of decision thereon, at his home, place of work or by any other means within thirty days from the date of submission of the application, and the expiration of this period without a response shall be deemed as the implicit rejection of the application.

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### Article 5

The relevant department in relation to the approval of the licence application of a hotel or tourist establishment shall issue a preliminary approval for the period prescribed by the regulations of this Law appropriate to the type of establishment requiring such licence so as to enable the applicant to complete the construction and installation of equipment necessary to start the activity.

The applicant, when construction is completed and the necessary equipment has been installed to start the activity shall notify the relevant department in writing. The department shall verify the completion of the construction and equipment installation within fifteen days from the date of notification and the licence shall be issued if the completion and installation is approved.

In the event construction has not been completed and/or the necessary equipment has not been installed, the applicant may be granted an additional period or periods, each not exceeding half of the period referred to in the first paragraph of this Article. If the required works are not completed at the conclusion of the additional granted period or periods the application shall be rejected.

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### Article 6

The duration of the licence shall be three years for hotel establishments, and one year for the tourist establishments and activities.

The licence may be renewed for a further period or other similar periods, on payment of the prescribed fee, in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed by the regulations.

The fees in regard of the issuance and renewal of a licence shall be determined by a decision of the Minister.

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### Article 7

Issuance of a licence for a hotel or a tourist establishment may be suspended by a reasoned decision of the Minister on the proposal of the President for appreciate deematons but the duration of the suspension shall not exceed six months from the date of issuance of the decision. The Council of Ministers, on the proposal of the Minister, may extend the suspension for a further period or other similar periods.

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### **Chapter Three: Obligations of the Licensee**

#### **Article 8**

The licensee shall comply with the following:

1. Take into account the licence regulations and conditions stipulated in this Law, its implementing regulations and decisions issued in implementation thereof;
  2. Subject the establishment or licensed activity to one management;
  3. Obtain the approval of the relevant department prior to making any changes to the facilities and the construction of the premises;
  4. Notify the Authority in writing of any intention to amend the trade name of the establishment, the ownership or the management;
  5. Provide the customer with an invoice listed with the services provided and the value of each of them;
  6. Take the necessary precautions to conserve the environment;
  7. Obtain the necessary licences and approvals from the relevant authorities before establishing any events in the hotel or tourist establishment, and notify the Authority of such licences and approvals before such desired events take place;
  8. Take into account the instructions issued by the Authority, based on the coordination between the Authority and the competent bodies in the State, on the controls of working in tourist activities or hotel and tourist establishments.
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#### **Article 9**

The licensee shall give the Authority notice of no fewer than fifteen days regarding marketing programmes or promotional information for tourists and the details of implementation thereof prior to the announcement of such events. Approval of the relevant department must be obtained before any tourist activity may take place and such programmes shall not be announced until approval has been given. Authority staff dealing with such matters is prohibited from disclosing any information about programmes to others.

The licensee shall provide the Authority with copies of the agreements and contracts concluded with any other hotel or tourist establishment, whether its activity takes place inside or outside the State

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#### **Article 10**

The licensee shall display in a conspicuous place the licence and the distinguishing mark of the class of establishment in the manner determined by the relevant department, and a tariff in presenting the prices of services and available products in both Arabic and English shall be displayed in a conspicuous place.

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#### **Article 11**

The licensee shall keep books, records and documents relating to the work of the establishment or the practising of the activity for the period prescribed by the regulations, shall bear responsibility for the validity of the data in such books, records and documents, and shall submit all data related to that on request by the relevant department.

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## Article 12

The licensee shall provide adequate opportunities for training, development and rehabilitation of national manpower at various tourist and administrative levels, and provide the Authority with annual training programmes.

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## Article 13

The licensee shall be prohibited from allowing any acts to be committed in the hotel or at the tourist establishment that are inconsistent with legislation, public order or public morals, or that affect the safety of the community or the security and stability of the country.

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## **Chapter Four: Waive, Transfer or Cancel the Licenc**

## Article 14

The licensee may not waive the licence granted to him, only after obtaining the written approval of the Competent Department, to be available in the assignee the licence conditions stipulated in this Law, implementing regulations thereof and decisions issued in implementation thereof.

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## Article 15

The licensee, when he stops or terminates practising the authorised activity for any reason, shall announce that at his own expense in one of the daily newspapers, according to the model that determined by the Competent Department. If the licensee does not announce, the Authority shall do that at his own expense, and announcement expenses shall be collected in administrative manner.

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## Article 16

The heirs of the licensed deceased shall notify the Competent Department, within three months from the date of death, of their names and places of residence and the name of delegates thereof. This delegate shall be responsible for the implementation of the provisions of this Law and the implementing decisions thereto and shall take the necessary measures to transfer the licence on the names of the heirs or on the name of one of them, during the period determined by the Competent Department, otherwise the licence deemed cancelled.

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## Article 17

The President may, on the recommendation of the relevant department, cancel the licence of a hotel or tourist establishment or the licence to practise an activity as follows:

1. Enforcing cessation of the activity for six consecutive months;
2. Prohibiting a licensee from practising any activities or acts in violation of the licence;
3. In the event that a licensee no longer maintains any of the necessary conditions or controls for the licence set forth in this Law and the decisions issued in implementation thereof;
4. In the event of the demolition of the building in which the establishment is wholly or partly located;
5. In the event the licensee changes the location of the establishment without notifying the Authority of his or her intention to do so;
6. In the event a licensee notifies the Authority they intend to cease the licensed activity;
7. In the event of the violation of any legislation, public order or public morals, or engaging in any act that may harm the country's reputation or security;
8. On the issuance of a final judgement to close the establishment.

## **Chapter Five: Classification of Hotel and Tourist**

### **Article 18**

The hotel and tourist establishments shall be categorised by class, the appropriate class for each of them being determined according to the rules and conditions set forth in the Classification Guide issued by the decision of the President on the proposal of the relevant department.

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### **Article 19**

Those who responsibly manage hotel and tourist establishments shall ask during the month of January of each year that of their hotel or tourist establishment be reclassified in accordance with procedures determined by the decision of the President. The President may make ??this amendment at any time, if there are serious reasons that obligate him to do so, on the proposal of the relevant department.

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## **Chapter Six: Tourist Guidance**

### **Article 20**

The practice of the profession of a tourist guide shall be restricted only to those who have obtained a licence from the Authority and whose details are recorded in the tourist guides register. The regulations show the method of registration and the procedures for submission of a licence application, issuance and renewal.

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### **Article 21**

The regulations shall determine the conditions governing the granting of licences, the duration of a licence, and the rights and duties of tourist guides, as well as cases of suspension from practising the profession and the expiration of licences. The conditions which shall be met by those who work in tourist activities or in the hotel and tourist establishments shall be determined by a decision of the President.

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### **Article 22**

The Minister shall issue, on the proposal of the President, a decision determining the fees required for generating licences and the renewal of licences, and the fees for replacing lost or damaged licences, and also the wages of tourist guides, as well as determining the number of licences to be granted in each tourist area.

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## **Chapter Seven: Penalties**

### **Article 23**

Without prejudice to any greater penalty handed down by any other law, a punishment of imprisonment for a term not more than one year and a

fine of not more than One Hundred Thousand Qatari Riyals (QR100,000), or either of them, shall be imposed on any person who:

1. Violates the provisions of Article 2 of this Law, with the punishment for which shall be the closure of the establishment;
2. Violates the provisions of Article 13 of this Law and, in addition to this provision, the offender may be punished with the closure of the establishment and cancellation of the licence.

The President may, in these two cases, close the establishment administratively, temporarily, until the verdict has been handed down.

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## Article 24

Without prejudice to any greater penalty provided by any other Law, a punishment of a fine not more than Fifty Thousand Qatari Riyals shall be imposed on any person who violates any of the provisions of Articles 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 of this Law and the court may, as well as, hand down the punishment of closure of the establishment.

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## Article 25

The President or the delegate there for may compound the offences stipulated in Articles 23 and 24 at whatever stage any case may be and prior to the issuance of the final judgement in return for payment of half of the maximum of the prescribed fine.

The consequence of such compounding shall be the termination of the criminal case and its implications, and the Public Prosecution shall order that the execution of the sentence shall cease if the compounding takes place during the implementation thereof.

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## **Chapter Eight: General Provisions**

## Article 26

A person may appeal to the President against a decision, in accordance with the provisions of this Law, within thirty days from the date of notification of the decision by delivery the notification to his home, work place or by any other means, or from the date of expiry of the prescribed date by which a decision was due to be made with regard to the licence application if a response has not been given.

The President shall rule on the appeal within fifteen days from the date of submission and if no response is made by the expiration of this period this shall be taken as an implicit rejection of the appeal and the decision of the President on the appeal shall be final.

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## Article 27

The staff of the Authority required to enforce a decision by the Public Prosecution, in accordance with the President, shall have the capacity of judicial enforcement officers in relation to acts committed in violation of the provisions of this Law.

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## Article 28

Any person practising any of the tourist activities stipulated in this Law, as well as those who own and run hotel and tourist establishments and those who are responsible for the management thereof, at the time this Law comes into effect, shall reconcile their circumstances in accordance with its provisions within six months from the date of this Law coming into force.

This deadline may be extended for a further period or other similar periods in accordance with a decision of the Council of Ministers on the proposal of the Minister.

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Article 29

The Minister shall issue, on the proposal of the President, the necessary regulations and decisions for the implementation of the provisions of this Law. The regulations and decisions currently in force that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Law shall continue in force until the issuance of these regulations and decisions.

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Article 30

Law No. 7 of 1982 and any provision violating the provisions of this Law shall be rescinded.

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Article 31

All relevant authorities, each within its own field of competence, shall enforce this Law, which shall be published in the *Official Gazette*.

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