

SPECIAL REGULATION No. 12

CONCERNING THE PRIVILEGES AND ADVANTAGES OF THE COMMISSIONERS GENERAL OF SECTION AND OF THEIR STAFF

Article 1. Purpose

1.1. Pursuant to Articles 8 and 43 of the General Regulations of the International Horticultural Exhibition Expo 2023, Doha, Qatar (hereinafter referred to as “Expo 2023 Doha”, or “Exhibition”) this Special Regulation specifies the requirements concerning the privileges and the advantages that shall be granted to Commissioners General of Section and their staff to facilitate the accomplishment of their duties.

1.2. The staff of the Commissioners General of Section shall comprise: The Deputy Commissioners General of Section, the Garden Directors, and other personnel of the Official Participants. Additionally, the spouse, dependent ascendants, minor or disabled descendants and other family members who constitute part of the households of the Commissioners General of Section and Deputy Commissioners General of Section (hereinafter referred to as “Family Members”) shall benefit from the privileges and advantages.

Article 2. Compliance with the Laws and Regulations

2.1. Official Participants shall comply with the Paris Convention relating to International Exhibitions, signed on November 22, 1928, amended and supplemented by the Protocols of May 10, 1948, November 16, 1966, November 30, 1972, and the Amendments of June 24, 1982 and May 31, 1988 (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”), the General Regulations, the Special Regulations, the relevant laws and regulations in Qatar and the additional instructions and directives issued by the Organizer, which shall be in line with the General Regulations and the Special Regulations of the Exhibition (hereinafter jointly referred to as “Laws and Regulations”).

2.2. The additional instructions and directives shall be issued by the Organizer to provide more information on related subjects and further specify the rights and obligations of Official Participants and the Organizer.

Article 3. Commissioners General of Section and Their Responsibilities

3.1. Pursuant to Article 13 of the Convention and Article 8 of the General Regulations, Commissioners General of Section shall represent those foreign governments and international organizations that have accepted the official invitation of the State of Qatar to participate in Expo 2023 Doha (hereinafter referred to as “Official Participants”).

3.2. As set out in Article 8.4 of the General Regulations of the Exhibition, Commissioners General of Section shall be solely responsible for the organization and operation of their exhibition areas, including all exhibitors and persons carrying out commercial and other activities in their sections.

3.3. Commissioners General of Section shall ensure that all persons under their responsibility comply with the Laws and Regulations.

Article 4. Assistance to the College of Commissioners General

The Organizer shall provide the following complimentary services as set out in Article 10 of Special Regulation 3 concerning the Rules for the functioning of the Steering Committee of the College of Commissioners General to assist the Steering Committee. The services include the following:

- Meeting venues, along with interpretation services into English and French only, as the official languages of the BIE. Both services will only be provided complimentary for the Steering Committee meetings.
- Office rooms, secretarial services other services necessary for the functioning of the Steering Committee.
- Office and administrative services and other services required by the BIE Technical Adviser to perform his/her duty.

Article 5. Protocol

In consultation with the Steering Committee, the Organizer and the Commissioner General of the Exhibition shall constitute a protocol regime including the procedures to be implemented in the Exhibition Site for the following receptions and events:

- Opening and Closing Ceremonies,
- National and Special Day ceremonies and events,
- Visits by special guests of honour and other VIPs on occasions other than National Days and Special Days,
- Categorizing special guests of honour and other VIPs,
- List of priority for special guests of honour and other VIPs,
- Details concerning the procedures for the provision of facilities and services for special guests of honour and other VIPs.

Article 6. Privileges and Benefits

6.1. Commissioners General of Section, their staff, as well as Family Members shall be granted the following advantages and privileges during the construction, exhibition, operation and dismantlement of their exhibition areas:

- 6.1.1.** Assistance in their visa application, immigration procedures for their period of stay in Qatar.
- 6.1.2.** Assistance in gaining appropriate status of residence in correspondence with the duties they will engage in the Exhibition.
- 6.1.3.** Accreditation cards for entering the Exhibition site and supporting facilities.

6.2. Commissioners General of Section and their staff without Qatari citizenship or residence permit in Qatar shall be exempted from individual income tax, generated from salaries, fees and indemnities paid by or on behalf of the Office of the Commissioner General of Section.

6.3. Commissioners General of Section and their staff without Qatari citizenship or residence permit in Qatar shall be exempted from any direct taxation on their income generated outside of Qatar.

6.4. Once the customs authorities in Qatar determine the value and quantity of all goods to be appropriate in regard to the nature of Expo 2023 Doha, the number of visitors and the size of the participation in the Exhibition, the Organizer shall provide necessary assistance to Commissioners General of Section and their staff for customs clearance and exemption of customs duties for the following items:

6.4.1. Goods for use in official receptions including food samples

6.4.2. Gifts for special guests and VIPs,

6.4.3. Other goods necessary to the Commissioners General of Section in carrying out their duties.

6.5. Commissioners General of Section shall obtain approval of the Organizer to bring the items mentioned in Article 6.4. of this Special Regulation into the Exhibition Site.

6.6. Personal goods and equipment belonging to Commissioners General of Section, their staff and family members shall be subject to Laws and Regulations at entry in Qatar. Aforementioned goods shall be exempted from customs duties and import taxes provided that their quantities are considered to be reasonable for personal use.

Article 7. VAT Refund

7.1. Official Participants shall receive a VAT refund paid in their purchases from Qatar of the following goods and services;

7.1.1. Goods and services acquired for the construction, installation and dismantlement of their exhibition areas,

7.1.2. Goods and services acquired for exhibitions and operations.

7.2. The detailed procedures of the VAT refund mentioned in the above paragraph shall be made available to Official Participants separately in the Participation Guide.

7.3. The procured goods eligible for the VAT refund may be sold in Qatar after the closing of the Exhibition. In such circumstances, aforementioned goods shall be subject to tax payment as required by the Laws and Regulations.

Article 8. Support Provided by the Organizer

8.1. The Organizer shall provide Official Participants with necessary information on the Laws and Regulations of Qatar concerning their participation in the Exhibition.

8.2. The Commissioner General of the Exhibition and the Organizer shall support Commissioners General of Section, their staff and Family Members to complete import procedures and visa applications.

8.3. The Commissioner General of the Exhibition and the Organizer shall provide Commissioners General of Section and their staff with the necessary support in communicating with the Qatari government authorities in order to facilitate the fulfillment of their duties.

8.4. The Organizer shall advise Commissioners General of Section regarding arrangements for their travel and accommodation.

8.5. The Organizer shall assist Commissioners General of Section and their personnel concerning obtaining driving licenses valid in Qatar and reserve parking lots for them near the Exhibition Site.

8.6. One imported vehicle for use of Commissioners General of Section in their duties shall be exempted from customs duties and taxes, provided that this vehicle will be re-exported after the closing of the Exhibition. The Organizer shall provide Official Participants with a list of car rental companies that have been accredited by the Organizer.