

**SPECIAL REGULATION No. 9
CONCERNING COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES BY OFFICIAL PARTICIPANTS**

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Purpose and Scope

1.1. The purpose of this Special Regulation of the Expo 2023 Doha, Qatar International Horticultural Exhibition (hereinafter referred to as “Expo 2023 Doha”, or the “Exhibition”) is to specify the necessary requirements for the commercial and other activities by Official Participants in the Exhibition site, in accordance with Articles 25, 26, 33, 35, 38,39 and 43 of the General Regulations of the Exhibition.

1.2. The commercial activities in this Special Regulation refer to the operation of restaurants and the sales of goods by Official Participants.

Article 2. Compliance with Laws and Regulations

2.1. All Participants shall comply with the Paris Convention relating to International Exhibitions signed on November 22nd, 1928 as amended and supplemented, the General Regulations, the Special Regulations of the Exhibition, the relevant laws and regulations in Qatar and the additional instructions and directives issued by the Organizer, which shall be in conformity with the General Regulations and the Special Regulations of the Exhibition (hereinafter jointly referred to as “the Laws and Regulations”).

2.2. 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.

2.3. Official Participants shall ensure that the staff and all other parties involved in commercial activities comply with the Laws and Regulations in force.

2.4. The Organizer has the authority to instruct Official Participants to cease commercial activities if the activities concerned violate the Laws and Regulations. Official Participants shall follow the instructions of the Organizer and bear the responsibility and losses arising therefrom.

2.5. The Organizer shall assume no responsibility whatsoever for any damage or loss relating to and resulting from the violation of the Laws and Regulations by the Official Participants.

2.6. The Commissioner General of Expo 2023 Doha may give instructions to an Official Participant that has violated the Laws and Regulations.

2.7. Participants shall be held liable for any damage caused to consumers by their Commercial Activities as provided for in the Laws and Regulations.

Article 3. Applicability

3.1. Commercial activities within the framework of this Special Regulation indicates the food and beverage and sales of goods by Official Participants in their exhibition areas approved by the Organizer. All commercial activities must be previously approved by the Organizer.

3.2. Restaurants run by Official Participants shall mainly serve food and specialties representative of their own countries.

3.3. Pursuant to Article 33.3 of the General Regulations, Official Participants may sell tourist items and souvenirs, such as images, slides, postcards, compact disks, books, stamps and other products representative of their countries or international organizations and that have a close association with horticulture and the overall theme of the Exhibition.

3.4. Pursuant to Article 33.4 of the General Regulations, the tourist items and souvenirs representative of their country shall be limited to five items. Several items in one product group shall be counted as one item in each case. Such items may be replaced during the course of the Exhibition. This principle also applies to electronic sales.

Article 4. Theme Commitment

4.1. Official Participants shall develop all aspects of their exhibition areas, including commercial activity areas in accordance with the theme of the Exhibition, “Green Desert, Better Environment”.

4.2. The Organizer requires all Official Participants to select, present and display contents based upon the consistency with the theme. This principle is also applicable for the goods sold by Official Participants in the areas dedicated to their commercial activities.

4.3. Since compliance with the theme is an essential element for the success of the Exhibition, Official Participants must receive prior approval of the Organizer concerning goods and contents sold or offered in the areas of commercial activities.

CHAPTER II. APPROVAL FOR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Article 5. Responsibilities of Commissioners General of Section

5.1. In accordance with Paragraph 4 of Article 8 of the General Regulations, Commissioners General of Section shall be solely responsible for commercial and all other activities in their respective exhibition areas, including all exhibitors and managers of the commercial activities. Notwithstanding of the forms in which Official Participants assign their commercial activities to a third party, Commissioners General of Section shall bear sole responsibility for the actions of the said third party.

5.2. Pursuant to Special Regulation No. 7 concerning Customs Clearance, Transportation and Handling of Goods, Commissioners General of Section shall be responsible for the payment of any expenses related to taxes, tariffs or duties incurred in regard to their commercial activities.

5.3. In accordance with Article 8 of this Special Regulation, Commissioners General of Section shall be responsible for the payment of royalties arising from their commercial activities to the Organizer.

Article 6. Approval of Commercial Activities

6.1. Official Participants wishing to establish food and beverage operations must gain prior approval of the Organizer with regard to the types, prices and price display methods of food and beverages to be sold as well as to the food and beverage operation location area, size, style, capacity and management method.

6.2. Any subsequent changes to the above items shall be subject to the approval of the Organizer.

Article 7. Areas Authorized for Commercial Activities

7.1. In accordance with Paragraph 7, Article 33 of the General Regulations, total space and location of the area authorized for commercial activities (the combined space for shops, food and beverage operations, storage area, production areas as kitchens, handing out samples and relevant facilities) by Official Participants shall not exceed 20% of the overall exhibition area assigned to the Official Participant, or 200 square metres whichever is smaller, in order to ensure that each national exhibition complies with the provisions in Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Convention relating to International Exhibitions, signed at Paris on November 22, 1928, 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. Furthermore, the said Area shall remain subject to the approval procedures defined in Article 6 herein.

7.2. The Organizer may conduct inspections in the exhibition areas to ensure that Official Participants and Non-Official Participants comply with the conditions set out in Article 7.1. of this Special Regulation.

7.3. The commercial activities by Official Participants should not diminish attention from the gardens and plants of Official Participants as the main focus of the Exhibition and should enhance the horticultural aspects of their exhibitions.

7.4. In accordance with Article 33.8 of the General Regulations of Expo 2023 Doha, Participants that do not dispose of an indoor space can be allocated a space for commercial activities at another location in the Expo site.

7.5. In accordance with Article 33.9 of the General Regulations, the installation of automatic vending machines and commercial activities outside of the specified area (e.g. “travelling hawkers”) shall not be permitted under any circumstances.

Article 8. Royalties

8.1. Official Participants shall pay a royalty of 8% on the turnover (excluding V.A.T) of all commercial activities to the Organizer.

8.2. Official Participants shall pay the royalty to the Organizer at the end of each month. The outstanding royalty after the end of the Exhibition shall be paid by 11/04/2024 to a bank account whose details will be communicated by the Organizer.

Article 9. Handling of Sales Income

9.1. Official Participants shall carry out all sales proceeding from commercial activities using a cash register or electronic means of payment specified by the Organizer.

9.2. The Organizer shall provide complimentary cash registers to Official Participants who will conduct commercial activities.

9.3. Official Participants who carry out commercial activities shall have sales slip for each sale, or a report of electronic payments received.

9.4. Official Participants shall keep a record of daily sales income and report sales proceeds in a way determined by the Organizer.

9.5. Official Participants shall allow the Organizer to access the accounting records and to perform audits thereof. Representatives of the Organizer to conduct audits shall carry relevant credentials and present them to the Organizer upon the request of the Organizer.

9.6. Official Participants shall comply with the other directives issued by the Organizer concerning the handling of sales proceeds. These directives shall be in conformity with Laws and Regulations.

Article 10. Sale of Exhibition materials

10.1. Official Participants may sell their exhibited items or materials after the closing of the Exhibition, providing that there are no constraints derived from Laws and Regulations.

10.2. If the above-mentioned items are sold by Official Participants, they shall no longer benefit from temporary admission, and shall be subject to the completion of customs procedures and payment of applicable Qatari taxes in accordance with the Laws and Regulations. No royalties shall be paid to the Organiser on such sales.

Article 11. Distribution of Samples and Foodstuff

11.1. The sample items and foodstuff that Official Participants may distribute free of charge to visitors within their own exhibition area shall be representative of their country.

11.2. Official Participants who wish to distribute complimentary sample items, food and beverages shall apply to and receive the approval of the Organizer with regard to lists of the said sample items, food and beverages as well as to their quantities, times and places of

distribution. In case deemed necessary by the Organizer, specific criteria may be added for approval.

11.3. During the distribution, the sample items and foodstuff shall bear the word “free sample.”

11.4. If Official Participants violate the Laws and Regulations during the distribution of free sample items and foodstuff or if the distribution is detrimental to the security, order and harmony of the Exhibition, the Organizer may withdraw its approval and direct the Official Participants to stop such activities.

Article 12. Restaurant for Staff

Official Participants may set up a restaurant for the exclusive use of its own staff within its exhibition area with the approval of the Organizer. Such restaurants shall not be open to the public. The official Participant shall not pay any royalties to the Organizer for the staff restaurant.

CHAPTER III. OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Article 13. Business Hours

13.1. The Organizer shall determine the business hours of Official Participants’ commercial activities as well as their type and location in consideration of the daily opening hours of the Exhibition stated in Special Regulation No. 13 concerning Admissions to the Exhibition Site.

13.2. Official Participants shall receive prior approval from the Organizer in order to suspend commercial activities during the business hours.

13.3. Pursuant to Article 3 Paragraph 6 of Special Regulation No. 13 concerning Admissions to the Exhibition Site, the Organizer may modify the business hours of commercial facilities due to the operational needs by notifying the Official Participants after the approval of the Commissioner General of Expo 2023 Doha, the Steering Committee of Commissioners General of Section and the BIE.

13.4. In case of an emergency, including force majeure, the Organizer may ask Participants to change the business hours of their commercial activities.

13.5. For any losses due to changes in business hours, Official Participants shall not claim any compensation from the Organizer.

Article 14. Sale Prices and Quality of Goods

14.1. Official Participants shall clearly display the prices of goods and services that they offer in their commercial areas in an easily understandable manner to visitors.

14.2. If deemed appropriate with regards to the operational needs of the Exhibition, the Organizer may give instructions relating to the quality and prices of traded goods to Official Participants.

14.3. In compliance with the Laws and Regulations, Official Participants shall ensure the quality of goods and services for sale by protecting the legitimate rights and interests of the customers.

Article 15. Currency to be Used

Within the Expo Site, all commercial activities shall be carried out in Qatari Riyal (QAR).

Article 16. Matters Requiring Notification

16.1. The following information shall be provided to the Organizer by Official Participants,

16.1.1. The names, identity cards and contact information of personnel in charge of commercial activities,

16.1.2. The names of the personnel related to the commercial activities,

16.1.3. Other information required by the Organizer.

16.2. Official Participants shall promptly inform the Organizer about any changes on the information stated in Article 16.1 of this Special Regulation.

Article 17. Management of Personnel

17.1. Personnel shall participate in the training programme conducted by the Organizer and carry identity badges on duty within the Exhibition Site.

17.2. In nonconformities of any staff with the Laws and Regulations or in circumstances when the behaviour of any personnel is defined inappropriate in terms of maintaining order on the Exhibition Site, the Organizer shall give instructions to related Official Participant to remove said personnel from the Exhibition Site or prohibit said personnel from engaging in commercial activities within the Expo Site. The Official Participant shall abide the directives given by the Organizer in such a case.

Article 18. Transport of Goods

Within and out of the Expo Site, the transportation of goods for sale, necessary equipment and materials, etc. shall be executed in compliance with the requirements set forth in Special Regulation No. 7 concerning Customs Clearance, Transportation and Handling of Goods.

Article 19. Prohibiting Sales of Goods that Violate Intellectual Property Rights

19.1. Official Participants shall not offer for sale goods or services that violate the Industrial Property Rights, copyrights or neighbouring rights set forth in Special Regulation No. 11 concerning Intellectual Property Rights.

19.2. In case of breach of aforementioned rights, Official Participants shall assume the corresponding responsibility in accordance with the Laws and Regulations.

Article 20. Use of the Exhibition Symbols

Official Participants shall not use in their commercial activities the logo, mascots or other symbols of Expo 2023 Doha for which the Organizer holds intellectual property rights without the approval of the Organizer.

Article 21. Construction and Dismantling of Commercial Activities

The commercial areas of Official Participants shall be constructed, designed and dismantled in accordance with the Special Regulation No. 4 concerning Construction, Installation, Workplace, Safety, Fire Prevention, and Environmental Protection and Special Regulation No. 5 concerning the Installation and Operation of Machinery and Equipment. Related expenses shall be borne by Official Participants.

Article 22. Sanitation, Hygiene and Food Safety

22.1. Official Participants shall comply with provisions of the Special Regulation No. 10 concerning General Services when conducting their commercial activities.

22.2. The Organizer and the Qatari Authorities reserve the right to perform health, food safety and hygiene inspections in the areas used by Official Participants for their commercial activities. The inspection procedures will be detailed later.

Article 23. Environmental Protection

23.1. Official Participants shall comply with Special Regulation No. 4 concerning Construction, Installation, Workplace Safety, Fire Prevention, and Environmental Protection whilst conducting commercial activities.

23.2. Official Participants shall define a strategy and take every necessary step to ensure the environmental protection within the Expo site with regards to their commercial and special activities in accordance with the Laws and Regulations.

23.3. All goods sold in the commercial areas of Official Participants shall be environmentally preferable and have reduced impact on health and environment.

Article 24. Waiver

The Official Participants shall ensure the waiver of subcontracting, leasing, mortgaging of facilities and commercial operations without the authorization of the Commissioner General of the Exhibition.

Article 25. Recommendation of Suppliers of Restaurant Provisions

The Organizer will provide the Official Participants with a list of recommended suppliers of restaurant provisions.

Article 26. Maintenance and Control

26.1. The Organizer reserves the right to inspect the commercial facilities and/or activities of Official Participants to see if the facilities are legitimately operated in accordance with the Laws and

Regulations. In such cases, the Organizer's representative or each inspector shall carry relevant credentials and present them if requested by the Official Participant or other related third party.

26.2. The Organizer shall inform Official Participants about any deficiencies detected in the course of the inspections. Official Participants shall take necessary measures to correct the deficiencies at their own expense and abide by the directives of the Organizer with regards to the completion date and time of such corrections.

26.3. Official Participants shall inform the Organizer about enhancements carried out on their own commercial areas and comply with directives given by the Organizer related to such work.

CHAPTER IV. SPECIAL EVENTS AND PUBLICITY

Article 27. Special Events

27.1. Official Participants who wish to arrange special events within the Exhibition Site, in accordance with Article 35 of the General Regulations, shall present the plans to the Organizer no less than 90 days prior to the opening of the Exhibition. These plans should state the nature as well as details of the event, including program, dates, times, and location.

27.2. Official Participants may, with prior approval of the Organizer, organize music, dance, and other performances in the areas where they conduct commercial activities.

27.3. No admission fees shall be charged for the special events referred to in the preceding paragraphs.

27.4. The Organizer shall have the right to make sound, image and video recordings of events organized by Official Participants, insofar as their use is not an infringement of copyright or industrial property rights.

Article 28. Environmental Protection

In case of the organization of special events, music, dance and other performances, within the Exhibition Site, Official Participants will guarantee, where applicable, the adoption of measures for the reduction of environmental footprint of such events.

Article 29. Publicity

29.1. Official Participants may carry out publicity activities within their sections. All publicity materials shall bear the names and symbols of the Official Participants and shall be subject to the examination of the Organizer.

29.2. Official Participants may not place or distribute publicity materials outside their sections without the approval of the Organiser.

29.3. The Organizer may direct Official Participants to change or remove promotional materials to ensure the security, order and harmony of the Exhibition.

29.4. Without the approval of the Organizer and the relevant Commissioner General of Section, Official Participants shall not use in their promotional materials and activities the names of other countries, regions, cities, or any other similar names.