

BELIZE
STATUTORY INSTRUMENT
No. 80 of 1994

BELIZE TOURIST BOARD (TOUR GUIDE)
REGULATIONS, 1994

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SCHEDULE

BELIZE:

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

No. 80 of 1994

REGULATIONS made by the Belize Tourist Board in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by section 15 of the Belize Tourist Board Act, Chapter 232A of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition, 1980-1990, and all other powers thereunto it enabling and approved by the Minister responsible for Tourism.

(Gazetted 27th August, 1994.)

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

Short title.

**BELIZE TOURIST BOARD (TOUR GUIDE)
REGULATIONS, 1994**

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,

Interpretation.

"Board" means the Belize Tourist Board established under the Belize Tourist Board Act;

CAP. 232A.

"Committee" means the Tour Guide Committee established under regulation 3 of these Regulations;

"drug" means a controlled drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act;

No. 22 of 1990.

"licence" means a licence granted under these Regulations and "licence holder" shall be construed accordingly;

"registered medical practitioner" means a person registered under the Medical Practitioners Registration Act;

CAP. 251.

"tour guide" means a person holding a licence granted under regulation 5 of these Regulations.

Establishment
of Tour Guide
Committee.

3. (1) For the purpose of these Regulations, there shall be established a Committee to be called the "Tour Guide Committee."

(2) The Committee shall consist of nine members who shall, subject to subregulation (3) below, be appointed by the Minister as follows:

- (a) four representatives nominated by recognized tour guide associations;
- (b) one representative nominated by the Belize Tourist Board;
- (c) one representative nominated by the Belize Tourism Industry Association;
- (d) one representative nominated by the Belize Tour Operators Association; and
- (e) two representatives appointed by the Minister in his own discretion.

(3) In making appointments of members to the Committee (whether in his own discretion or otherwise), the Minister shall have due regard to the geographical distribution of tour guides in order to ensure that all tourism destinations are adequately represented.

(4) The members of the Committee shall hold office for a period not exceeding two years as may be specified in the instrument of appointment and such member shall be eligible for reappointment.

(5) The members of the Committee shall appoint a suitable person from among their membership to be the Chairman of the Committee, and the Chairman shall have an original and a casting vote.

(6) A member of the Committee may at any time resign his office by instrument in writing addressed to the Chairman of the Committee.

(7) The Minister may for good and sufficient cause revoke the appointment of a member of the Committee,

(a) upon the recommendation of the majority of the total membership of the Committee, or

(b) where he thinks it expedient so to do:

Provided that in revoking the appointment of a member under paragraph (b) above, the Minister shall do so after consultation with the Committee.

(9) The quorum at all meetings of the Committee shall be five members.

(10) Subject to these Regulations, the Committee may regulate its own procedure.

4. The functions of the Committee shall be to:

(a) receive and determine applications for licences under these Regulations;

(b) provide advisory and information services to licence holders;

(c) assist licence holders in any matters affecting the discharge of their functions;

(d) perform any other function for the better carrying out of the provisions of these Regulations.

5. (1) Subject to the provisions of these Regulations, any person intending to operate as a tour guide shall apply to the

Duties and functions of the Committee.

Licences.

Committee on an application form prescribed by the Committee and such person shall submit his application along with the following to the Committee:

- (a) medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner;
- (b) recent police record;
- (c) two recommendations from persons in good standing who are well acquainted with the applicant;
- (d) a formal recommendation from a recognized local tour guide association;
- (e) two passport size photographs, one of which shall be certified as being that of the applicant;
- (f) proof of Belizean citizenship; and
- (g) proof of accreditation in the courses listed in regulation 8.

(2) Tour guides who have been in the tour guide industry for a period of at least ten years and who do not possess the necessary requirements for a licence under these Regulations may obtain a licence provided that such tour guides:

- (i) submit a letter of recommendation from a local tour guide association which is acquainted with the tour guide;
- (ii) reliably and effectively satisfy the Committee of their competency in the areas of requirement for a licence under these Regulations; and

(iii) satisfy any other necessary requirements as stipulated by the Committee.

(3) A licence granted under subregulation (2) above may be subject to such terms and conditions as the Committee deems fit.

(4) Subject to subregulation (8) of this regulation, all licences shall be issued by the Committee upon payment to the Board of a fee of seventy five dollars by the applicant and such licences shall be in the form prescribed in the Schedule hereto.

Schedule.

(5) All licences issued under these Regulations shall expire within one year from the date of issue but may be renewed for like period upon payment of the prescribed fee and upon production of the documents specified in paragraphs (a), (b), (d) and (e) of subregulation (1) of this regulation.

(6) All tour guides shall, while conducting tours, prominently display upon their persons a laminated copy of their licence.

(7) Any person aggrieved by a refusal of the Committee to grant a licence may appeal to the Board.

(8) Where a licence has been lost, the holder of such licence may apply for a replacement licence upon payment of a fee of ten dollars, and the replacement licence shall expire at the expiration period of the original lost licence.

(9) All licence fees payable under this regulation shall be credited to the account of the Board.

6. (1) No person shall operate, advertise or hold himself out as a tour guide without first obtaining a licence in accordance with these Regulations.

Prohibition on operating without a licence.

(2) Any person who at the commencement of these Regulations is operating and desires to continue to operate as a tour guide shall within six months of the date of commencement of these Regulations apply to the Committee for a licence in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

(3) Any person who contravenes subregulation (1) above commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

7. (1) Subject to subregulation (2) of this regulation, no licence shall be granted to a person unless that person:

7. (1) Subject to subregulation (2) of this regulation, no licence shall be granted to a person unless that person:

- (a) is a citizen of Belize;
- (b) is eighteen years of age or older;
- (c) possesses the aptitude and health which is required and which is compatible with his work;
- (d) is fluent in the English language;
- (e) has successfully completed the course of study stipulated in regulation 8 of these Regulations;
- (f) has not within five years prior to his application been convicted of a criminal offence;
- (g) is of good character; and
- (h) is a member of a recognized local tour guide association.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations, the Committee may, in the event there is a shortage

of tour guides generally, or of tour guides possessing any particular skill, training or qualification necessary for tour guiding, grant a provisional licence to a person subject to such terms and conditions as two thirds of the Committee may deem fit.

8. (1) An applicant for a licence under these Regulations shall possess accreditation in at least the following courses:

Academic
qualifications.

- (a) fundamentals of Belizean Eco-Tourism;
- (b) fundamentals of tour guiding;
- (c) ecology, conservation and environmental protection;
- (d) natural history of Belize;
- (e) history and geography of Belize;
- (f) art, folklore and culture of Belize;
- (g) human relations and professional ethics;
- (h) safety, first aid, and cardio pulmonary resuscitation; and
- (i) practical field experience.

(2) The examiners in these courses shall be recognized professionals in their respective fields.

(3) All persons seeking training in the above courses shall be responsible for paying their own fees.

(4) The Committee shall reserve the right to require higher qualifications than those specified in this regulation from persons who, in the opinion of the Committee may be involved in high risk activities.

Duty of licence holders.

9. It shall be the duty of licence holders under these Regulations to:

- (a) maintain at all times appropriate personal appearance;
- (b) cooperate with the Committee whenever this is necessary for the promotion of tourism in Belize;
- (c) take all necessary steps to safeguard the environmental integrity of Belize;
- (d) attend cultural activities or events or refresher courses organized by the Committee to improve and enhance their performance in their profession;
- (e) exercise their functions as tour guides and in touristic enterprises; and
- (f) cooperate and seek advice from the Board in order to more efficiently carry out their duties.

Functions of licence holders.

10. The functions of licence holders under these Regulations shall be to:

- (a) convey and guide tourists to and in touristic attractions, facilities and establishments;
- (b) assist tourists with their shopping needs while ensuring that articles of arts and crafts purchased are of good quality and authenticity;
- (c) assist tourists in avoiding excessive charges for services or items purchased;
- (d) provide tourists with information about transportation, tourist services, social and economic

conditions, public attractions, climatic and sanitary conditions, lodging facilities and other matters of interest in the country, in as precise and truthful a manner as possible;

(e) report any abuse or infractions of the laws relating to tourism by any person to the Committee; and

(f) take all necessary steps to safeguard the environmental integrity of Belize.

11. Any tour guide licensed under these Regulations who-

Offences and penalties.

(a) insults, abuses or harasses a tourist, either through word or deed;

(b) induces or encourages tourists to do anything contrary to the laws of Belize or to do anything which goes against good customs or morals;

(c) carries out or attempts to carry out his functions under these Regulations while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs;

(d) offers for sale or otherwise any illegal drugs or illegal commodities to tourists;

(e) is convicted of any serious crime by any court of law;

(f) engages in any activity detrimental to the environmental integrity or archaeological or cultural heritage of Belize,

shall, in addition to the penalties prescribed under any other law, be liable to any of the following disciplinary actions by the Committee:

- (a) a reprimand;
- (b) suspension of licence;
- (c) revocation of licence.

Repeal of S.I.
130/92.

12. The Belize Tourist Board (Tourist Guide) Regulations, 1992 are hereby repealed.

Commence-
ment.

13. These Regulations shall come into force on the 1st day of November, 1994.

MADE by the Belize Tourist Board this 3rd day of August, 1994.

(SANTIAGO CASTILLO)
Chairman
Belize Tourist Board

APPROVED by the Minister responsible for Tourism this 3rd day of August, 1994.

(HENRY YOUNG)
Minister of Tourism and
the Environment

SCHEDULE (Regulation 5)

**BELIZE TOURIST BOARD
(TOUR GUIDE) REGULATIONS, 1994**

**TOUR GUIDE LICENCE
NOT TRANSFERABLE**

LICENCE NO.

(INSERT HERE FULL NAME AND ADDRESS)

being qualified to operate as a tour guide and having paid the fee of
..... is hereby licensed under the Belize Tourist Board (Tour Guide)
Regulations, 1994, to operate as a TOUR GUIDE in Belize until the
..... 19

DATED this day of 19

*Chairman
Tour Guide Committee*