

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**Decree n° 2007-457 dated 6 March 2007, relating to the classification of tourist establishments providing accommodation services.**

The President of the Republic,

On a proposal from the Minister of Tourism,

Having regard to decree-law n° 73-3 dated 3 October 1973, ratified by law n° 73-58 dated 19 November 1973, controlling tourist establishments management, as amended and completed by law n° 2006-33 dated 22 May 2006, simplifying the procedures in the field of administrative authorizations relating to the tourist sector, and notably article 2,

Having regard to decree-law n° 73-4 dated 3 October 1973, ratified by law n° 73-59 dated 19 November 1973, relating to the control of the construction of tourist establishments,

Having regard to decree n° 73-510 dated 30 October 1973, classifying the tourist establishments providing accommodation services, as completed by decree n° 83-930

dated 13 October 1983, and decree n° 86-89 dated 13 April 1986,

Having regard to decree n° 76-977 dated 11 November 1976, fixing the attributions and the functioning methods of the Tunisian national board of tourism, as amended by decree n° 83-930 dated 13 October 1983, and decree n° 86-89 dated 8 January 1986,

Having regard to decree n° 2005-2122 dated 27 July 2005, fixing the attributions of the Ministry of Tourism,

Having regard to the opinion of the Administrative Court.

Decreases the following :

Article one - The tourist establishments providing accommodation services are classified according to the material characteristics, their services quality and their classification in ten groups, as follows :

- 1 - tourist hotels.
- 2 - apart-hotels.
- 3 - holiday villages.
- 4 - motels.
- 5 - boarding houses.
- 6 - camping sites.
- 7 - charme hotels.
- 8 - rural gites.
- 9 - tourist residences.
- 10 - guests' rooms.

Art. 2 - Each group above mentioned in article one of the decree herein may be divided into several categories.

The categories making each group and their minimum features are fixed by order of the Minister of Tourism.

Art. 3 - Shall be considered as a "tourist hotel" a tourist establishment providing accommodation services in the form of rooms, suites or bungalows for temporary rental and which are governed by the hotel management rules, as fixed by the regulations in force.

The tourist hotel has to provide, according to its category, a host of services and activities in common spaces fitted out for this purpose and opened for the public.

Art. 4 - Shall be considered as an "apart-hotel" a tourist establishment providing accommodation in the form of apartments or bungalows fitted with kitchenettes, for temporary rental, and governed by the hotel management rules as fixed by the regulations in force.

The apart-hotel has to provide according to its category, a host of services and activities in common spaces fitted out for this purpose and opened to the public.

Art. 5 - Shall be considered as a "holidays village" a tourist establishment providing accommodation and entertainment services based on a wide range of sports, cultural and entertaining activities, and governed by the hotel management rules as fixed by the regulations in force.

Art. 6 - Shall be considered as a "motel" a tourist establishment located close to a highway or on a main road having dense road traffic, intended for entertaining passing travelers, and providing accommodation services as well as

providing particular services (service station, supplies, repair service, catering facilities...), and governed by the hotel management rules as fixed by the regulations in force.

Art. 7 - Shall be considered as "boarding house" a tourist establishment providing limited accommodation services, realized or fitted out to entertain tourists in order to provide them with accommodation and breakfast. It is family managed.

Art. 8 - Shall be considered as a "camping site" a tourist establishment realized on a plot of land fitted out for this purpose away from urban center, where tourists may reside in personal tents, or in tents either furnished on the spot or pre-installed, or in towed caravans.

The camping site has to provide according to its category, a host of services and activities in common spaces fitted out for this purpose and opened to the public.

Art. 9 - Shall be considered as a "charme hotel" a tourist establishment built in a block of flats or in an environment characterized by a specific architectural and historical value.

This establishment provides its resident clients with customized services, and it is governed by the hotel management rules as fixed by the regulations in force.

Art. 10 - Shall be considered as a "rural gîte" a tourist establishment located in a rural environment, in sites having natural and cultural potentials.

In addition to accommodation, the rural gîte provides services to enhance the local resources.

Art. 11 - Shall be considered as a "tourist residence" a real estate operation located in a tourist zone, that enables customers either to purchase or rent accommodation units.

Art. 12 - Shall be considered as a "guest room" any accommodation unit, a number of its rooms is put at the disposal of tourists, either by its owner or its occupant, and which provides bed and breakfast. It is family managed.

Art. 13 - The requests of classification of tourist establishments providing accommodation services are addressed to the Tunisian national board of tourism and this before the commencement of business.

Besides, any request for amending the classification is addressed in accordance with the same procedures.

Art. 14 - The director general of the Tunisian national board of tourism office decides about the establishments classification into groups and categories or amends the classification on subsequent to a report submitted for the purpose by the employees of the tourist administration charged of inspection, and after having the opinion of the commission for classifying the tourist establishments providing accommodation services.

Art. 15 - The commission for classifying the tourist establishments providing accommodation services is presided by the director general of the Tunisian national board of tourism or his representative, and comprises :

- a representative of the Ministry of tourism,
- a representative of the Tunisian national board of tourism,

- a representative of the Tunisian federation of travel agencies and tourism.

Art. 16 - The concerned tourist establishment may submit a request to the Minister of Tourism in order to review the decision of classification, and this, not later than a month as from the date of the written notification.

Art. 17 - The Minister of Tourism may decide the review of the decision relating to classification, and this, by granting an upper or a lower classification, or keeping the granted classification unchanged, and this, after having the opinion of the commission reviewing the classification of the tourist establishments providing accommodation services.

Art. 18 - The commission reviewing the classification of the tourist establishments providing accommodation services is presided by the Minister of Tourism or his representative, and it comprises :

- the director general of the Tunisian national board of Tourism,
- a representative of the Ministry of Tourism,
- the president of Tunisia's hotels federation,
- the president of the Tunisian federation of travel agencies and tourism.

The president of the commission may call on any person, whose participation is deemed useful, to participate in the works of the commission in an advisory capacity.

Art. 19 - The tourist establishments providing accommodation services shall display at the main entrance a sign delivered by the Tunisian national board of tourism, specifying its classification regarding the groups and categories it belongs to.

Art. 20 - All the previous provisions contrary to the decree herein and notably decree n° 73-510 dated 30 October 1973, classifying the tourist establishments providing accommodation services, as amended by decree n° 92-684 dated 13 April 1992, are repealed.

Art. 21 - The Minister of Tourism shall implement the decree herein which shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Tunisia.

Tunis, 6 March 2007.

**Zine El Abidine Ben Ali**