

Act No (3) for the year 1963  
Governing Aliens Entry and Residence in Qatar  
Amended by Act No (8) for 1973, Official Gazette  
Issue No (6) for 1973

We, Ahmed Bin Ali Al Thani, Governor of Qatar

Based on the proposal of the Deputy Governor,

Decree as follows :-

**Chapter One:**  
**Aliens' Entry into Qatar**

Article (1)

Amended in accordance with the Decree - Law No (27) for 1994 – Official Gazette, Issue No (17) for the year 1994.

No alien may enter or leave Qatar, unless he holds a valid passport, issued by the competent authorities of his country or by any other recognized authority, or holds a document, serving as a passport and issued by one of the abovementioned authorities.

The Minister of Interior shall, by a resolution, determine such documents serving as passports.

Article (2)

Amended in accordance with the Decree - Law No (5) for 1981 – Official Gazette, Issue No (5) for the year 1981,

A passport or a travel document, shall leave the necessary visa stamped by the competent authority. The Minister of Interior shall issue, by a resolution, the type of visas and procedures to be followed to obtain a visa and shall determine the fees to be collected.

An alien, who leaves the country after ending his service, may not be granted an entry visa for work, except after the lapse of two years from the last date of his departure.

The Minister of the Interior, may in the best interest of the country grant this visa regardless of the above period.

### Article (3)

Exempted from the condition of having a passport, are the national labor of the Emirates of the Arabian Gulf, provided that they have official documents proving their identity and their good conduct and after passing medical examination being fit for work with the approval of the Directorate of Immigration and Passports.

### Article (4)

No alien may enter or leaves Qatar except through, points specified by from the Minister of Interior and after stamping the passport or the travel document by the officer in charge of control.

### Article (5)

Amended in accordance with the Decree - Law No (17) for 1998 – Official Gazette, Issue No (12) for 1998.

Captains of vessels, airplanes and bus drivers, when entering or leaving Qatar shall present to the officer in charge a manifest containing names of the crew of their vessels, airplanes and vehicles, and names of passengers and their details. They shall not carry any passengers, who do not hold passports or who have no visas for entering the country, and in case such persons do exist, they have to prevent them from leaving the vessel or the airplane or the bus and shall inform the authorities concerned.

In all cases, the violations carrier shall undertake, at his own expense, to return the passenger who has no passport or entry visa to the country from which that person came. The authorized agent of the carrier may act on behalf of the carrier in reconciliation and legal proceeding taken against the carrier.

## **Chapter Two – Informing Competent Authorities**

### **Article (6)**

Any alien shall within 3 days of his entry into the territories of Qatar, present himself to the Directorate of Immigration, Passports and Nationality, write a declaration of his entry and shall, within one week of change of his domicile notify such change.

### **Article (7)**

The Director of the Directorate of Immigration, Passports and Nationality may permit the alien to appoint another person on his behalf to follow up procedures, set forth in the previous article for reasons such as illness or any other reasons such as international courtesy, as determined by the Director of the said Directorate.

### **Article (8)**

Amended in accordance with the Decree - Law No (17) for 1998 – Official Gazette, Issue No (12) for 1998.

Managers of hotels and the like, shall submit true information to the concerned authority about businessmen and tourists who are permitted to enter the country through them, and they have to lodge them in the same hotel, which has processed their visas unless otherwise necessary.

The hotel shall be responsible and shall take all obligations of the sponsor.

In all cases, hotels and alike, and any person who lodges an alien or keeps him in his house, shall inform the security department of the name of the alien and his address within forty four hours from his arrival.

### **Article (9)**

Aliens, during their stay in Qatar, shall present, whenever asked, their passports or the documents, which act as passports, and shall answer any enquiry and give any necessary information; and shall also present themselves to the Directorate of Immigration, Passports and Nationality on the date, specified to them.

In case any passport or document which acts as a passport has been lost or damaged, they shall inform the Directorate of Immigration, Passports and Nationality within three days of such loss or damage.

### **Chapter Three – Aliens Residence in Qatar**

#### **Article (10)**

Any alien, who intends to reside in Qatar, shall obtain a residence permit from the Director of the Directorate of Immigration, Passports and Nationality, and shall leave Qatar. Territories on the expiry of his residence, unless he has obtained, before that date, a permission from the Directorate of Immigration, Passports and Nationality extending his residence.

#### **Article (11)**

Aliens who have been residing in Qatar for more than five years before the date of this act without a residence permit shall, within three months from the effective date of this act, submit an application to the Director of the Directorate of Immigration, Passports and Nationality to obtain a residence permit. The following documents:

- a. A passport or a travel document shall be attached to application issued by his government or a certificate proving his nationality.
- b. An official certificate from the respective authorities proving that he has entered the country legally.
- c. Certificate of good conduct, and behavior signed by four persons of Qatar nationals.
- d. A list of members of his family and his residence address in Qatar along with a sponsorship by a trustworthy person, accepted by the Directorate of Immigration, Passports and Nationality.

A committee shall be set up by a resolution from the Minister of Interior to consider granting those aliens residence permits in accordance with the provisions of this law.

### Article (12)

Aliens, mentioned in the preceding article, may be granted permits allowing them to maintain their residence in Qatar for a period not exceeding five years from the date of granting such permits which should be renewable.

### Article (13)

Aliens, referred to in article (11) herein, are not permitted to be outside Qatar for continuous period exceeding six months, unless they have obtained, prior to their departure, or before the end of this period, a permission from the Department of Immigration, Passports and Nationality, for reasons it considers satisfactory. Breach of these provisions entails cancellation of the right of residence, licensed to the alien.

### Article (14)

Aliens, who stay outside Qatar for reasons of education, mandatory military service or for medical reasons, are exempted from the provisions of this article, on condition that they provide evidences proving the validity of such reasons.

### Article (15)

An Alien, who intends to reside in Qatar, may obtain residence license for all the period of the validity of his passport, but his residence shall not exceed one year from the date of obtaining that license. If this period elapses he may request the renewal of his residence license and the Manager of Immigration, Passport and Nationality may renew the license for one year every time or reject its renewal.

### Article (16)

An alien, who is working in the government or public institutions, shall be given residence license during all the period of his service, on condition that he is holding a valid passport, and once his service is terminated, he shall leave Qatar within one week from the date of termination, unless he has obtained another residence license.

### Article (17)

An alien who enters the country for visit or for making business deals that require staying Qatar for less than one month, shall be exempted form the obligations

mentioned in article (6) and article (10) herein, and shall not be allowed to stay in the country after the expiry of this period, unless he obtains a residence permit.

### Article (18)

Whoever employs an alien for a period more than thirty days shall provide a declaration on the specified form to the police center, where his work is located, during 48 hours from the date on which the alien commences work with him; or after thirty days from the date on which the alien starts working with him on permanent bases.

After the end of the service of the alien with him, he shall submit a declaration to the police center during 48 hours after the alien ceases to work with him.

### Article (19)

Amended in accordance with Law No (5) for 1981 – Official Gazette, Issue No (5) for 1981.

And the Law No (7) for 1986 – Official Gazette, Edition No (12) for 1986.

1. An alien, who has obtained a permission to enter or to reside for a certain purpose, or to work with a certain party, shall not breach this purpose or join another work. An alien has to leave the country immediately after the end of the purpose for which he has obtained the permission to enter or reside, and he shall leave the country in case of cancellation of sponsorship for any reason whatsoever. The Minister of Interior may approve the transfer of sponsorship of an alien to another work owner, if he considers that the country's interest so requires.
2. If an alien worker has been fired from his work because of breaching the terms of work contract, he shall not be permitted to return to Qatar, except after three years at least from his departure.
3. (a) Ministries, public institutions, companies and individuals, are restricted to allow aliens, whom they have recruited to work with them from abroad under their sponsorship, to work with other parties. They are also restricted to employ alien workers, who are not under their sponsorship.

As an exemption form aforesaid, the Ministry of Interior, after consulting with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, may permit a sponsor to second his alien workers to another work owner to work with him for a period not exceeding six months; and may permits an alien to work for some time with another parties out of his original duty time if his sponsor gives his approval in written.

(b) The parties and individuals, referred to in subsection (a) of this article as well as recruitment offices dealing with alien workers, are not allowed to waive for others, the entry visas, which they obtained to recruit alien workers or to deal with these visas in any way whether with return or without.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of the last subsection of article (1), the following are exempted from the implementation of the provisions of the two clauses (1) and (3) of this article:

a. Alien craftsmen, who are practicing by themselves minor crafts in accordance with the provisions of the Law No (20) for 1963 concerning organization of the work of aliens on trade and industry in Qatar and its amendments, who are using only one labor if required, on condition that the alien shall not change his craft.

b. Aliens who are practicing by themselves simple trade outside the boundaries of Doha city, on condition that the capital of each will not exceed 5.000 (Five Thousand) Qatar Rials, and uses only one labor if required.

c. Aliens who are practicing trade and industry at the date on which the Law No (20) for 1963 entered into force concerning the organization of work of aliens on trade and industry in Qatar and its amendments, and those who are working with them.

d. Provisional workers, who are practicing occasional and temporary works and having licenses proving their capacity issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

### Article (20)

No one is allowed to benefit of the residence license except the person for whom it is licensed and his wife and under-aged children who are living with him.

## **Chapter Four – Deportation of Aliens**

### **Article (21)**

The Minister of Interior, upon obtaining the approval of the Governor, may order the deportation of any alien whose presence poses a threat to the security of the State, internal & external safety, economy, public health, morals, or becomes a burden on the State. Deportation order may include the dependant members of his family.

### **Article (22)**

The Ministry of Interior may compel an alien, against whom a deportation order has been issued, if such order can't be implement, to stay in a certain area for two weeks, which is renewable. The alien shall report to the police station, in the area where he lives, on the dates specified by the order, pending his deportation.

### **Article (23)**

An alien, against whom a deportation order has been issued, shall not be allowed to return to Qatar except by an order from the Minister of Interior.

### **Article (24)**

Amended in accordance with Law No (7) for 1986 – Official Gazette, Issue No (12) for 1986.

An alien shall exit Qatar by an order from the Minister of Interior, if he has no residence license or if the duration of his license has expirede; and this order shall not be issued if there is an appeal in front of the Committee of Administrative Appeal, prescribed in the Law No 16 for 1963 and until a resolution of denial of the appeal is issued by the Committee. The Committee has to decide on this appeal urgently in accordance with the last clause of article (6) of the said Law.

An alien may return to Qatar, if he possesses the conditions for return, in accordance with the provisions of the Law.



### Article (25)

The Ministry of Interior may order that the expenses of deportation of an alien and his family, be deducted from the money of the alien if available.

### Article (26)

If an alien against, whom an order of deportation has been issued, has matters in Qatar, which require to be settled, he shall be given grace period to settle these matters, after providing acceptable guarantee, and the Minister of Interior shall determine this period which shall not exceed three months.

## Chapter Five – General Provisions

### Article (27)

Fees for issuance of a residence, renewal thereof and exemptions shall be determined from a decision by the Minister of Interior.

### Article (28)

Amended in accordance with Law No (7) for 1986 – Official Gazette, issue No (12) for 1986

And Decree No (22) of 1994 – Official Gazette, Issue No (13) for 1994

- (1) Anyone violates the provisions of the articles (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), (8), (9), (10), (11), (15), (16), (17), (18), (19), and clauses (1, 2), (22) and (23) of this law, or the provisions of rules and decisions of implementation of these articles, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than one year and not more than three years, together with a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Riyals and not more than Fifty Thousand Riyals, or with either one.
- (2) Anyone violates the provision of clause (3/a) of article (19) herein shall be punished with a fine not less than Thousand Riyals and not exceeding Six Thousand Riyals, and the punishment is doubled if the violator is a company or an establishment.
- (3) Anyone violates the provisions of clause (3/b) of article (19) of this law, shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not less than two months and not

exceeding one year and a fine not less than Three Thousand Riyals and not exceeding Twelve Thousand Riyals or with either of these punishments.

### Article (29)

Amended in accordance with the Law No (8) for 1988 – Official Gazette, Edition No (7) for 1988

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of the two articles (1) and (4) , the following are exempted from implementation of the provisions of this law are:

1. Presidents of states and their families
2. Head of diplomatic missions and consulates, and their families, who are living with them in one place.
3. Members of diplomatic missions and diplomatic envoys.
4. Crews of vessels and airplanes coming to Qatar who hold marine tickets or air tickets from their concerned authorities.
5. Whoever the Minister of Interior decides to exempt with a special permission for international courtesy.

(b) The Minister of Interior shall organize by passing an order after consulting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the regulations and procedures for the entry, residence and exit of those whom the exemption mentioned in the precedent clause does not include, of the members, employee and workers in the diplomatic and consular missions and their special servants, who are delegated from their countries and their families, who are living with them in one place.

### Article (30)

Provisions of this law do not contravene the special agreements for entry visas in which Qatar is a member or the accepted norms.

## Article (31)

All authorities, each within its sphere of competence put shall this Law into force after ninety days of its publication in the Official Gazette. The Minister of Interior shall issue necessary resolution for implementation..

Governor of Qatar

Ahmed Bin Ali Al Thani

Issued on: 22/9/1382 H.

Corresponding: 16/2/1963

**Decree No (22) for 1994**  
**Amendment of certain provisions of Law No (3) for 1963 concerning**  
**Aliens Entry and Residence in Qatar**

We, Ahmed Bin Ali Al Thani, the Governor of Qatar,  
Having reviewed the Amended Provisional Constitution –articles (23), (27), 34) thereof in particular.  
Law No (3) for 1963 concerning regulation of entry and residence of aliens in Qatar and its amendments,  
Qatar Penal Law No (14) for 1971 and it's amending laws,  
The recommendations of the Minister of Interior,  
And the draft Law presented by the Council of Ministers,  
Decree as follows :-

**Article (1)**

Text of subsection (1) of article (28) of the said Law No (3) – 1963, shall be replaced by the following text:

"(1) Anyone violates the provisions of articles (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), (8), (9), (10), (11), (15), (16), (17), (18), (19, and clauses (1, 2), (22) and (23) of this law, or the provisions of rules of implementation of these articles, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than one year and not more than three years, and with a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Riyals and not more than Fifty Thousand Riyals, or with either one.

And in all cases, judgment shall include confiscation of the means of transportation used in committing the crime.

**Article (2)**

All authorities concerned, each within its sphere of competence, shall implement this Law which shall be effective as of date of publication in the Official Gazette.

Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani  
Governor of the State of Qatar

Issued in the Emiri Palace on 13/3/1415 H  
Corresponding: 20/8/1994 G.

**Decree – Law No (27) for 1994**  
**Amending certain provisions of Law No (3) for 1963 concerning the**  
**Regulation of Aliens Entry and Residence in Qatar**

We, Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani, the Governor of the State of Qatar,  
Having reviewed the Amended Provisional Constitution –articles (22), (23), (27), (34)  
thereof in particular.  
The Emir Order No (2) – 1964, concerning the appointment of the Deputy Governor  
of the State of Qatar,  
Law No (3) for 1963 concerning the regulation of entry and residence of aliens in  
Qatar and its amendments,  
Law No (5) – 1970 concerning of the powers of the Ministers and Function and  
Competence of the ministries and other government organs,  
The Resolution of the Council of Ministers issued on its ordinary meeting No (22) for  
1994, held on 13/7/1994 concerning permission for Kuwaiti nationals to enter Qatar  
territories using Personal Identification Cards,  
The recommendation of the Minister of Interior,  
And the draft Law presented by the Council of Ministers,  
Decree as follows :-

**Article (1)**

"The following clause shall be added to the text of article (1) of Law No (3) for 1963,;  
"The Minister of Interior may, by his resolution specify the documents which can  
serve as passports."

**Article (2)**

All authorities concerned, shall implement this Law which shall become effective as  
of date of publication in the Official Gazette.

Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani  
Deputy Governor of the State of Qatar

Issued in the Emiri Cabinet on 19/7/1415 H  
Corresponding: 21/12/1994 G.

**Decree No (17) for 1998**

**Amendment of certain provisions of Law No (3) for 1963 concerning  
the Regulation of Aliens Entry and Residence in Qatar**

We, Jasim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Emir of the State of Qatar,  
Having reviewed the amended Provisional Constitution, articles (22), (23), (27), (34)  
thereof in particular,  
The Law No (3) for 1963 concerning the regulation of entry and residence of aliens in  
Qatar and its amendments,  
Law No (5) – 1970 concerning the powers of the Ministers and Functions &  
Competence of ministries and other government organs and its amending laws,  
Law No (8) for 1983 concerning reconciliation on crimes of entry and residence of  
aliens in Qatar,  
Law No (3) of 1984 concerning the regulation of sponsorship and exit of aliens,  
The recommendations of the Minister of Interior,  
And the Draft law presented by the Council of Ministers,  
Decree as follows :-

**Article (1)**

The text of articles (5) and (8) of Law No (3) for 1963, referred to herein, shall be replaced by the following two texts:

Article (5):

"Captains of vessels, airplanes and vehicle drivers, when entering or leaving Qatar shall present to the officer concerned a manifest containing names of their vessels crews, airplanes and vehicles, and names of passengers and their details. They shall not carry any passengers, who have no passports or visas to enter the country, However, if such persons do, they should prevented from leaving vessel, airplane or car and shall be reported to the concerned authorities concerned.

In all cases, the violating carrier shall undertake, at his own expense, to return any passenger no passport or who has no entry visa to the country from which that person came. The authorized agent of the carrier may act on behalf of the carrier in reconciliation and legal proceeding, lodged against the carrier.

### Article (8):

"Managers of hotels and alike, shall submit true information to the concerned authority about businessmen and tourists who are permitted to enter the country through them, and they have to lodge them in the same hotel, which has processed their visas unless otherwise necessary.

The hotel shall be responsible and takes all obligations of the sponsor for the sponsored.

In all cases, hotels and alike, and any person who lodges an alien or keeps him in his house, must inform the security department, where the hotel or the lodging located, about the name of the alien and his address within forty four hours from his arrival."

### Article (2)

All concerned parties, shall implement this Law and shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Jasim Bin Hamad Al Thani

Deputy Prince of the State of Qatar

Issued in the Emiri Palace on 12/6/1419 H

Corresponding: 3/10/1998 G.