

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Tourism**

22-August-2014

Union Tourism Ministry simplifies procedure for Hotel classification and re-classification

In a significant move, the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India has decided to simplify the hotel classification and re-classification procedure by not seeking the licenses and clearances which are issued by various Local, State and Central Government authorities for operation of hotels. These include the land utilization certificate, building completion certificate, coastal zone regulation clearance, forest and environment clearance, pollution control clearance, police clearance, fire safety clearance, airport authority clearance, health and sanitation clearance. Henceforth, while applying for classification and re-classification, the hotels would be required to submit only the current and valid Trade license and bar license, if applicable. This was announced by the Minister of Tourism and Culture Shri Shripad Yesso Naik in New Delhi at the National Conference of State Tourism Ministers. The Minister said, the step has been taken in consonance with the Prime Minister's directive to cut the red tape. He said the decision would remove unwanted procedure and speed up the classification and re-classification process.

The Ministry feels that in case any violation of any Act, Rule, Regulation or Guideline issued by the Local, State or Central Government Authorities is done by any Hotel, the respective Authorities are fully competent to take action against the unit. The Ministry of Tourism's classification or reclassification will remain valid only if the hotel has all licenses and clearances that are required under various Acts, Rules, Regulations or Guidelines issued by the Local, State or Central Government Authorities for operation of the hotel, current and valid. In case any unit is found not operating as per the requirements of the Acts, Rules, Regulations or Guidelines issued by the Local, State or Central Government Authorities, its classification or reclassification would cease to be operational with immediate effect.

The Ministry of Tourism in order to safeguard the interest of the consumers would take an affidavit from the Hotel Authorities that it is operating after obtaining all necessary licenses and clearances that are required under various Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines issued by the Local, State or Central Government Authorities. The Ministry would continue to classify or reclassify Hotels on the basis of Amenities, Facilities and Services provided by the unit.

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Tourism Ministry delinks Hotel classification from Liquor Service

Considering the long standing demand of Hotel industry, the Ministry of Tourism has taken a progressive step for classifying 4 Star, 5 Star hotels in non-Heritage sector and Classic category Hotels in Heritage sector without insisting on the presence of a bar that serves alcohol on the premises. This was announced by Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge) Shri Shripad Naik.

As per the new guidelines, hotels in the categories of 5 Star and 4 Star in non-Heritage sector and Classic category Hotels in Heritage sector can now be classified as "5 Star with alcohol service", "5 Star without alcohol service", "4 Star with alcohol service", "4 Star without alcohol service", "Classic Heritage with alcohol service" and "Classic Heritage without alcohol service".

At present, the Ministry of Tourism classifies various hotels on voluntary request in the categories of 1 Star, 2 Star, 3 Star, 4 Star, 5 Star and 5 Star Deluxe in non-Heritage sector and in the categories of Basic, Classic and Grand in the Heritage sector. Under the guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism till now, alcohol service was essential for Hotels seeking classification under the categories of 4 Star, 5 Star, 5 Star Deluxe, Classic Heritage and Grand Heritage.

This decision would provide flexibility to hotel owners and management to take considered decision on whether to provide alcohol service or not in their units.

However, to protect the customer's interest, the Ministry of Tourism has made it compulsory for all the classified hotels to make their precise classification status shown on the opening page of their (Hotel's) website and also declare such status clearly on their (Hotel's) promotional and marketing material without any abbreviations.

This new provision of classification has come into effect immediately.
