

L. N. 130 of 2002

**MALTA TRAVEL AND TOURISM SERVICES ACT
(CAP. 409)**

Host Family Accommodation Regulations, 2002

IN exercise of the powers conferred by article 47 of the Malta Travel and Tourism Services Act, the Minister for Tourism, on the recommendation of the Malta Tourism Authority, has made the following Regulations:-

Citation and commencement.	1.	(1) The title of these regulations is the Host Family Accommodation Regulations, 2002.
Interpretation.	2	(1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:-
Cap. 409.		"Act" means the Malta Travel and Tourism Services Act;
L.N. of 2002.		"allocation agreement" has the meaning as assigned to it in the Travel Operators and Organised Excursion Operators Regulations, 2002;
		"incoming tourism operation" means an operation by an incoming tourism agent and by a destination management company, and "incoming tourism operator" shall be construed accordingly;
Cap 327.		"educational institution" has the same meaning as assigned to it in the Education Act;
		"host family" means the person in whose name the licence for the accommodation of tourists has been issued and who resides in any building, howsoever described, not being a hotel, guest house, hostel or holiday premises, which is normally used for the permanent or temporary habitation of the licensee and is used or intended to be used for the concurrent habitation of guests;

L.N. 60 1996.

“school” has the meaning as assigned to it in the National Minimum Conditions (Schools Teaching English as a Foreign Language) Regulations, 1996;

Words and expressions used in these regulations and which are also used in the Act shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the same meaning as in the Act.

Licence
conditions.

3.

(1) The Authority shall not issue a licence to a host family unless it is satisfied that:-

- a) the house where the guests are to be accommodated is the residence, for the time being, of the applicant and is suitable for the concurrent habitation of guests and is not already so licensed; and
- b) the applicant and his household, are of good character and are fit to receive and provide accommodation to guests in their residence.

(2) An applicant wishing to provide accommodation to guests registered to attend a school licensed under the Education Act and the National Minimum Conditions (Schools Teaching English as a Foreign Language) Regulations, 1996, or any other educational institution shall produce -

Plan of the
premises.

- (a) documentary evidence that he has an allocation agreement with a licensed school or educational institution and that he and his household are certified as possessing a good command of the English language by a licensed school or educational institution recognised by the Ministry responsible for Education;
- (b) a floor sketch plan together with a detailed description of:
 - i. the room or rooms and their respective measurements intended for use as bedrooms by the guests and the number of beds in each bedroom; and
 - ii. the bathroom or bathrooms and respective measurements intended to be used by guests; and

- (c) a declaration that the accommodation complies with the standard requirements as indicated in the First Schedule to these regulations jointly signed by the applicant and a representative of a school or educational institution.

Rooms used for the accommodation of guests

- 4. (1) The licensee shall not use any other rooms for the accommodation of guests except those indicated in the sketch plan submitted with the application.

(2) The number of guest rooms shall not exceed four, and the number of guests, at any time, shall not exceed four:

Provided that the Authority may determine a lesser number of rooms or beds to be licensed if, in its opinion, the premises are not suitable to accommodate the maximum number of guests concurrently with the number of persons living in the house.

Declaration by applicant.

- 5. (1) The applicant shall submit a valid police conduct certificate of himself and a declaration that neither he nor any member of his household have been convicted for drug related offences or for crimes against the good order of families.

(2) The applicant shall grant the Authority the right to have access to his police record and to that of the members of his household.

Responsibilities for guests staying with licensed host families.

- 6. (1) An incoming tourism operator or any other person entrusted with making the accommodation arrangements or, in the case of guests following a course of studies organised by a school or other educational institution, the Head of School or the educational institution responsible for the students' non-academic arrangements, shall ensure that:-
 - a) such guests are accommodated only with host families licensed for the purpose; and
 - b) where the guest is following a course of studies, the host family providing the accommodation is

contracted with the school or educational institution as the case may be;

(2) The provisions of Part C entitled “Non –Academic Matters” of the National Minimum Conditions (Schools Teaching English as a Foreign Language) Regulations, 1996 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to any person or body corporate that allocates guests to a host family house.

(3) Any authorised person including representations of a person, including licensed schools or educational institution may carry out inspections of the premises of a host family contracted with them in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act and these regulations.

(4) A person holding a host family licence shall prevent a duly authorised representative of the Authority or of the licensed school or of the educational institution from carrying out at any reasonable times, interviews and random inspections of the house in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act and with these regulations;

(5) No representative of a licensed school shall give false or misleading information to the Authority about the applicant and the licensed premises.

Responsibilities
of host family
towards guests of
minor age.

7.

(1) An applicant who wishes to accommodate guests of minor age shall be deemed to recognise the need for, and shall be bound to a higher level of care towards minors and their general well-being during their stay and shall provide an environment within the host family consonant with the age of the minor.

(2) The responsibility of the applicant in this respect shall include, but shall not be limited to

a) giving access at all times to the premises where such accommodation is being provided;

b) the provision of appropriate meals to any minor accommodated in the premises.

Cancellation
of licence.

8.

The Authority may suspend or withdraw a licence as provided for in article 46 of the Act, and also if so recommended by the Monitoring Board established under

the National Minimum Conditions (Schools Teaching English as a Foreign Language) Regulations, 1996.

Standard requirements for a house to qualify for a licence.

9. The standard requirements for a house to qualify for a host family license shall be those indicated in the First Schedule to these regulations.

Offences and Penalties.

10. Any person who fails to comply with any of the provisions of these regulations shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable to the fines and penalties as indicated in articles 43 and 45 of the Act.

First Schedule

Host family accommodation detailed standards

1 Guest Bedroom

1.1 General

- 1 Each room must have a separate and independent entrance
- 2 Maximum number of bedrooms: 4
- 3 Minimum size of single bedroom: 9.5 square metres
- 4 Minimum size of twin bedroom: 13 square metres
- 5 Minimum size of triple bedroom: 18 square metres

1.2 Bed

- 1 Minimum bed sizes: 85 x 190 cm for single, or 135 cm x 190 for double
- 2 Bed linen: 2 sheets, pillow sheet, blanket and bedspread cover
- 3 One pillow per person
- 4 Extra blanket per person available (only in winter time)
- 5 Bed sheets changed once a week
- 6 Maximum number of beds allowed per unit: 4

1.3 Furniture and Comfort

- 1 Window allowing natural light and ventilation in room
- 2 Blackout curtain (or similar)
- 3 One chair or armchair
- 4 One bedside table or night table
- 5 Non slip bedside carpets
- 6 One writing table with lamp stand or similar
- 7 One wastepaper basket
- 8 One mirror
- 9 Wardrobe with 5 clothe hangers per person
- 10 Heating (only in winter time)
- 11 Fan
- 12 General lighting in good functioning order
- 13 Individual bedside reading light
- 14 Availability of one electric socket.

1.4 Cleaning and General State of Bedroom

- 1 Cleaning of bedroom at least once a week.
- 2 Good state of bedroom, furniture and fittings
- 3 Good state of furnishings and linen
- 4 Good cleaning of furniture

2 Bathroom

When a bathroom is shared, it must have independent access

2.1 Sanitary facilities

- 1 Continuous supply of cold and hot water for sanitary ware*
 - 2 Water closet
 - 3 Two toilet paper rolls available in bathroom
 - 4 Wash-hand basin
 - 5 Wrapped soap or soap distributor
 - 6 Sanitary bin
 - 7 Disposal bag
- *supply of hot water for water cistern not applicable

2.2 Bath/Shower

- 1 Continuous supply of cold and hot water
- 2 Shower cubicle or fixed bath tub
- 3 Bath / shower wall built with waterproof, impervious material
- 4 Towel hanger
- 5 Bathroom mat (towel) for bath tub or shower
- 6 Shelving or facility for holding toiletries
- 7 Mirror
- 8 One bath towel and one small towel per person

2.3 Complementary and miscellaneous

- 1 General lighting to enable correct vision in all bathroom areas
- 2 Each bathroom with effective system of natural or mechanical ventilation

2.4 Cleaning and General State of Bathroom

- 1 Cleaning of bathroom twice a week
- 2 Good state of bathroom, fixtures and fittings
- 3 Good state of furniture and towels
- 4 Towels changed twice a week

25th January 2001 and amended with AG (except for clauses relating to minor age)