

HIGHLIGHTS OF REVISED GUIDELINES FOR RECOGNITION OF TOURISM SERVICE PROVIDERS BY THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM

With the persistent efforts of IATO manifesting in one to one meetings, webinars, letters to authorities and follow ups the above notification was fructified.

A) APPLICABILITY: Under Tour Operators are Included:

- a) Tour Operators Inbound
- b) Tour Operators Domestic
- c) Adventure Tour Operators with conditions as per Annexure enclosed
- d) MICE Tour operators

B) CATEGORISE:

- i) Green Shoots/ Start ups
- ii) Experienced Travel Agents/Tour Operator
- iii) Experienced Tourist Transport Operators

Minimum requirements for eligibility under each criterion for grant of Recognition as follows:

S. No	Criteria for Grant of Recognition	Green Shoots/ Start Ups	Experienced Travel Agents/ Tour Operators	Experienced Tourist Transport Operators
1	Minimum requirement of Paid up Capital	Rest of India Rs 1 lakh, North East Region, UT of Ladakh, J&K, A&N and Lakshadweep Islands Rs 50,000/-	Rest of India: Rs. 3 Lakhs, North East Region, UT of Ladakh, J&K, A&N and Lakshadweep Islands Rs 50,000/-	Rest of India: Rs. 3 Lakhs, North East Region, UT of Ladakh, J&K, A&N and Lakshadweep Islands Rs 50,000/-
2	Minimum requirement of annual turnover	NIL	Rest of India - Rs. 20 Lakh North East Region, UT of Ladakh, J&K, A&N and Lakshadweep Islands Rs 5 Lakhs Annual Turnover during the financial year 20-21 will not be taken into consideration in view of Covid 19.	Rest of India - Rs. 20 Lakh North East Region, UT of Ladakh, J&K, A&N and Lakshadweep Islands Rs 5 Lakhs Annual Turnover during the financial year 20-21 will not be taken into consideration in view of Covid 19.
3	Minimum Period of Operational experience prior to submission of Application	NIL	ONE YEAR	ONE YEAR
4	Qualification Requirements	Minimum of two staff members (10+2 or	For Agencies with Annual Turnover up to Rs 10 Crore,	NIL

	Promoter/ Partners / Directors/ Staff Of organization	equivalent) of the two one staff member to be qualified with degree Diploma in Tourism / Travel Management from an approved university, including deemed university, IITTM, Institutions approved by AICTE or basic certificate holder of IITFC	Minimum of Two Staff Members (10+2 or equivalent) of the two one staff member to be qualified with degree diploma in Tourism / Travel Management from an approved university, including deemed university, IITTM, Institutions approved by AICTE or basic certificate holder of IITFC. For Agencies with Annual Turnover of more than Rs 10 Crore , Minimum of four (4)staff members. (10 + 2 or equivalent) Of the four, two staff members to be qualified with DegreeDiploma m Tourism/ Travel Management from an approved University) including deemed university. IITTM. Institutions approved by AICTE or Basic certificate holder of IITFC.	
5	Office Space	No requirement subject to compliance/instructions r egulations / rules of local government / authority	For Agencies with Annual Turnover up to Rs 10 Crore No requirement subject to compliance/instructions regulations / rules of local government / authority. For Agencies with Annual Turnover of more than Rs 10 Crore 150 sq. ft for rest of India and 100 sq. ft for hilly areas For Agencies located in North East Region, UT of Ladakh, J&K, A&N and Lakshadweep Islands no requirement subject to compliance/instructions regulations / rules of local government / authority.	For Agencies with Annual Turnover up to Rs 10 Crore No requirement subject to compliance/instructio ns regulations / rules of local government / authority. For Agencies with Annual Turnover of more than Rs 10 Crore 150 sq. ft for rest of India and 100 sq. ft for hilly areas For Agencies located in North East Region, UT of Ladakh, J&K, A&N and Lakshadweep Islands no requirement subject to compliance/instructio

				ns regulations / rules of local government / authority.
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ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TOUR OPERATORS ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ADVENTURE TOURISM

- Specialisation of activities to be indicate
- Own Adventure equipment
- Qualified field staff

TOURISTS TRANSPORT OPERATORS

- Requirement of minimum 6 tourists' vehicle cars/buses
- Water transport also included with minimum 2 boats with STA permits and safety norms.

PROCEDURE TO APPLY

- For both Fresh and Renewal, through all Ministry of Tourism Regional Offices under e prescribed norms online submission only

SCRUTINY OF APPLICATION

- By the Ministry of Tourism Govt of India New Delhi (For all fresh cases and Green shoots/start Ups)
- At the level of its Regional offices (For renewal of recognition).

INSPECTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE AGENCY

- Annual turnover of more than Rs. 10.00 Crore (other than agencies located in the North East. UT of J&K/ Ladakh/ Andaman & Nicobar / Lakshadweep) inspection by a Team for initial approval within a period of sixty working days from the receipt of complete application.
- Those already approved and are seeking renewal, physical inspection at the time of renewal would not be required, subject to conditions

GRANT OF RECOGNITION / APPROVAL

- Where office premises are not a requirement. approval / recognition of the Ministry of Tourism will be accorded based on scrutiny of the documents submitted
- Where office premises are a requirement. provisional certificate will be issued based on scrutiny of documents submitted subject to verification at the time of inspection of the office premises.
- Where already approved, seeking renewal of approval renewal will be accorded by the Ministry based on scrutiny of the documents submitted.

VALIDITY OF RECOGNITION

- For Green Shoots or Start Ups 3 years.
- Experienced Category of Tourism Service Providers – 5 years

This will benefit all IATO members in their being granted fresh recognition or renewal and embark upon their business endeavours in earnest.