

Regulations of 17 February 1973
for the granting of permits to foreign vessels
to visit the territorial sea of Ecuador, its coasts or islands
for the purpose of tourism or scientific research

Article 1

Any foreign vessel intending to visit the territorial sea, its coasts or islands for the purpose of tourism or scientific research must obtain the appropriate written authorization from the Ministry of National Defence.

Article 2

In order to obtain the authorization referred to in article 1, the operators, owners or captains of the vessel shall submit a written application, not less than 60 days before the date set for the expedition, either directly to the Ministry of National Defence or through an Ecuadorian embassy abroad, attaching thereto the data, requisite information and documents referred to in the articles below.

Article 3

When the expedition is being undertaken solely for the purpose of tourism, the application referred to in the preceding article shall be accompanied by the following documents and data:

1. Characteristics of the vessel;
2. Itineraries and description of activities to be carried out;
3. Names of national and foreign sponsors of the voyage, with their postal addresses, duly authenticated;
4. Place and date of embarkation and disembarkation;
5. An undertaking that if the Ministry deems necessary, an Ecuadorian tourist guide, to be paid by the Company, will be taken on board at a specified Ecuadorian port;
6. An express undertaking to observe the rules for the preservation of national parks and protected natural species, and to compensate for any damages caused thereto.

Article 4

When the purpose of the expedition is to carry out scientific research, the application shall be accompanied by the following documents and requisite information, in addition to those listed in article 3:

1. A list of the names of the scientific personnel participating;
2. The names of representatives or authorized agents in Ecuador, with their postal addresses, duly authenticated;
3. Details of the research to be carried out in the following fields: oceanography, physics, chemistry, biology, geophysics, meteorology and hydrology;

4. An undertaking to put in at the first Ecuadorian port and to take on board there, at the expense of the expedition, an official or functionary of the Naval Institute of Oceanography;
5. The use to be made of the results of the research;
6. An undertaking to make available through diplomatic channels, the complete results and conclusions of the studies carried out, indicating the date on which the undertaking is to be put into effect;
7. An undertaking to collaborate with Ecuadorian technical personnel in scientific work of interest to the Naval Institute of Oceanography;
8. In specific cases where the vessel is to carry out geophysical research involving underwater seismographic exploration, the granting of concessions of carboniferous materials shall be the responsibility of the Ministry of National Resources and Tourism, in accordance with the Supreme Decree published in Registro Oficial No. 400 of 31 May 1970. The General Naval Command, through the said Ministry, shall require natural or juridical persons to furnish the following information within six months from the completion of the survey works:
 - Method of seismographic exploration used;
 - Number of sheet-pilings and sheets;
 - Shot recording method used;
 - Filter system from initiation to final reproduction of the recordings;
 - "Deconvolution" procedure used and manner in which it was carried out, specifying whether it was done before or after "backing up";
 - A base map showing the location of shot points;
 - Copies of the cross-sections and longitudinal sections of the seismic recordings - showing density or variable, galvanometric or combined areas - duly corrected and processed at appropriate vertical and horizontal scales;
 - A copy of the bathymetric chart.

Article 5

Following receipt of the application by the Ministry, and subject to the favourable opinion of the General Naval Command and verification that the application contains all the requisite information referred to in article 4, the Ministry shall issue the resolution granting or refusing the authorization.

Article 6

If the resolution authorizes the expedition, it shall stipulate the express conditions under which the authorization is granted; if it refuses the authorization, it shall indicate the reasons or the grounds for such refusal.

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Article 8

If the Ministry or the General Naval Command considers, upon examination of the relevant documents, that the expedition is inadvisable or inconsistent with the national interests, the authorization may be postponed or refused without there being any obligation to explain the reasons for such action.

Article 9

After the authorization has been granted, if supervening circumstances so necessitate, or if the recipient fails to comply with one or more of the requirements or conditions stipulated for the expedition in the relevant resolution, the Ministry may, by means of a new resolution, cancel the authorization, allowing the captain of the vessel a reasonable period in which to leave the territorial waters.

Article 10

Although an application for the authorization of the expedition may have been submitted through the proper channels, no vessel may enter the territorial waters of Ecuador before the appropriate permit has been obtained.

Article 11

On the commencement of the expedition within Ecuadorian territorial waters, the captain of the vessel shall deliver the authorizing Ministerial Resolution to the official or agent responsible for tourism and shall be provided in return with:

- (a) The orders and provisions of the General Naval Command;
- (b) The provisions of the Naval Institute of Oceanography concerning the tasks to be carried out and verified.

Article 12

Upon completion of the expedition, the captain shall receive the appropriate authorization to sail from the competent Harbour Master.