



**IMMIGRATION RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE
KINGDOM OF BHUTAN 2023**

Table of Contents

Preamble.....	1
Title and Commencement	1
Repeal.....	1
Application and Authority.....	1
Powers and Functions.....	2
Responsibilities of Immigration Officer	3
GENERAL PROVISIONS	4
Right of Rejection	4
Proof of Identification	4
Entry and Exit	4
Health Measures.....	5
Arrival	5
Departure.....	5
Obligations	6
Passport	7
Biometrics	7
IMMIGRANT.....	7
Registration of an Immigrant Child	9
Status of Immigrant on divorce or demise of Bhutanese spouse	9
NON-IMMIGRANT	9
Conditions applicable to Non-Immigrant.....	10
Visa	13
Gratis Visa.....	13

Immigration Rules and Regulations 2023

Visa On Arrival	13
Entry Permit	14
Recommending Authority	14
Marriage Application under process	14
Personal Guest of Bhutanese	15
Adult children, parents and parents-in-law	17
Work Permit	18
Student Permit	19
Trader Permit	20
Dependent Permit	20
Route Permit	21
Applicable Fee	21
INSPECTION	22
Cancellation of Immigration Permits	22
Denial of Immigration Service	23
Offences and Penalties	24
Fines	27
Interpretation	29
Amendment	29
Definition	29

**IMMIGRATION RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE
KINGDOM OF BHUTAN
(Revised 2023)**

Preamble

In exercise of powers conferred by section 144 of the Immigration Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2007, hereinafter referred to as the Act, the Ministry of Home Affairs hereby adopts the Immigration Rules and Regulations 2023 for effective implementation of the Act as follows:

Title and Commencement

1. This Rules and Regulations shall:
 - (a) Be called the Immigration Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2023; and
 - (b) Come into force on 28th Day of the 09th Month of the Water Female Rabbit Year of Bhutanese Calendar corresponding to 11th November 2023.

Repeal

2. Existing circulars and notifications that are inconsistent with this Rules and Regulations are hereby repealed.

Application and Authority

3. This Rules and Regulations shall be applicable throughout the Kingdom and shall regulate the admission of foreign nationals, their presence within, and their departure from the Kingdom;
4. The Department shall authorize the issuance, extension, and cancellation of all immigration permits unless

otherwise mentioned. An immigration permit shall be subject to conditions including geographical restrictions.

Powers and Functions

5. The Department shall:
 - (a) Monitor and coordinate activities and performance of Divisions under the Department, Regional Immigration Offices, and the immigration office at international airports of the Kingdom;
 - (b) Submit reports on immigration matters to the Ministry of Home Affairs as and when required;
 - (c) Liaise and coordinate with other law enforcement agencies; and
 - (d) Any other duties as may be empowered by the Act.

6. The Regional Immigration Offices shall:
 - (a) Ensure effective implementation of the Act and this Rules and Regulations within their jurisdiction;
 - (b) Check and control the entry and exit of any unauthorized person;
 - (c) Liaise, support, and work closely with the Single Authority for Integrated Checkpoints and other law enforcement agencies;
 - (d) Ensure efficient and effective public service delivery; and
 - (e) Submit report, as and when necessary, to the Department.

7. The checkpoints, ports of entry and exit, and outposts shall:
 - (a) Check and control the entry and exit of any unauthorized person;
 - (b) Facilitate efficient and effective entry and exit services to the public;

- (c) Maintain proper entry and exit records in the immigration system; and
- (d) Liaise and coordinate with other law enforcement agencies as and when required.

Responsibilities of Immigration Officer

8. An immigration officer shall verify the document, identity and nationality, and intent of a foreigner before issuance of an immigration permit.
9. An immigration officer, at the port of entry, shall verify passport or identification document and clearance, before endorsement of immigration permit.
10. An immigration officer shall seize fraudulent, falsified or counterfeit documents, and the travel document of an impersonation case. The seized document shall be removed from circulation, and handed to the approving authority of the travel document as per the requirement of International Civil Aviation Organization.
11. An immigration officer shall stop all categories of vehicles, except diplomatic or flag cars at immigration checkpoints or strategic locations for the purpose of inspection.
12. An immigration officer shall record entry and exit of all persons entering or exiting the Kingdom in the immigration system.
13. An immigration officer shall check immigration permits issued to foreigners.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Right of Rejection

14. The Department may reject any application for an immigration permit without assigning any reason.

Proof of Identification

15. A Bhutanese on demand by an immigration officer shall produce a citizenship identity card or identification document issued by the Department of Civil Registration and Census.
16. A Special Residence Permit holder on demand by an immigration officer shall produce SRP or identification document issued by the Department of Civil Registration and Census.
17. A foreigner on demand by an immigration officer shall produce a passport or an identification document.

Entry and Exit

18. A foreigner shall enter and exit the Kingdom through a designated port of entry and exit as prescribed under Annexure I, or any other port of entry or exit that may be so designated by the Government.
19. A foreigner shall stop and produce an immigration permit at checkpoints to register his or her entry or exit.
20. No person shall enter or pass through designated immigration areas, unless authorized by an immigration officer.

21. An immigration officer shall verify a foreigner individually against his or her immigration permit and travel document during entry and exit.

Health Measures

22. Appropriate health measures may be implemented by relevant Government agency at the port of entry and exit to prevent the importation or exportation of diseases of public health significance.
23. Foreign workers shall be required to undergo general health screening including drug tests. The tests may be as prescribed by relevant Government agency.

Arrival

24. A foreigner who is eligible for Entry Permit/visa on arrival may be required to submit a duly filled-in Entry Permit/visa on arrival form as prescribed by the Department.
25. A foreigner shall produce a valid passport or an accepted identity document, and prior clearance as applicable, at the immigration counter.
26. An immigration officer after completion of due diligence shall issue an entry permit, visa, or visa on arrival with the approved duration of stay.

Departure

27. A foreigner shall depart the Kingdom on or before the expiry of his or her immigration permit.

28. A foreigner while departing from the Kingdom shall complete immigration formalities at the port of exit.

Obligations

29. The Civil Aviation Authority in the Kingdom shall notify to the immigration office at the airport when a chartered or unscheduled flight is granted landing permission. The notification shall be provided in writing atleast two hours prior to the landing of such a flight.
30. Any airline or flight scheduled to land at an airport in the Kingdom shall be required to provide advanced information on passenger and crew member on board, before take-off of the aircraft from the place of departure.
31. A foreign crew member of a chartered flight entering and exiting the Kingdom on the same day shall not require Entry Permit/visa provided he or she holds a valid passport and an airline crew member certificate issued in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organization standards.
32. A foreigner working as a crew member of a commercial airline operating in the Kingdom shall be required to obtain a work permit.
33. An airline transporting a foreigner into the Kingdom shall ensure that the foreigner has the required immigration entry clearance, and passport or identity document prior to issuance of boarding permission.
34. An owner or lessor of rental premises shall verify the residency status of a potential foreigner lessee with the

Department before renting the premises to a foreigner. Failure to abide by this requirement shall be construed as abetment of illegal immigration and the owner or lessor shall be liable for prosecution by a court of law and/or fines or penalties.

35. A foreigner seeking entry shall prove that he or she has adequate means to support his or her stay in the Kingdom without having recourse to public funds.

Passport

36. Unless otherwise exempted by law or bilateral agreement, a foreigner coming to the Kingdom shall carry the valid passport against which the visa clearance has been issued.
37. The passport shall be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from the Kingdom.

Biometrics

38. A foreigner entering the Kingdom shall be required to provide their biometrics at the port of entry or a designated site.
39. Holders of diplomatic passports visiting the Kingdom on official business may be exempted from providing biometrics.

IMMIGRANT

40. A foreigner who is married to a Bhutanese after 10 June 1985 or the son or daughter of such parentage shall be categorized as an immigrant after issuance of an Immigration Card.

41. The following documents shall be submitted for issuance of an Immigration Card to a foreigner married to a Bhutanese:
 - (a) Duly filled application forms as prescribed by the Department;
 - (b) Marriage certificate issued by the Royal Court of Justice;
 - (c) Copy of Citizenship Identity Card of Bhutanese spouse; and
 - (d) Passport or identity document of the foreign spouse.
42. An Immigration Card holder is not permitted to work in any organization in the Kingdom without prior approval from the Department.
43. Both the Bhutanese and the foreign spouse may be required to physically report to the Department during the renewal of the Immigration Card.
44. An Immigration Card holder residing in the Kingdom shall reside in the address reflected in the card and any change in address shall be reported to the Department.
45. A foreigner while in the Kingdom as a visitor, dependent, work or student shall not be permitted to process an Immigration Card. He or she shall be required to exit the Kingdom for at least one year to be eligible to apply for an Immigration Card.

Registration of an Immigrant Child

46. A child born to a Bhutanese and a foreigner holding Immigration Card must be registered with the Department within one year of the child's birth. The following documents shall be submitted to the Department:

- (a) Duly filled application forms as prescribed by the Department;
- (b) Birth certificate or passport of the child; and
- (c) Verification report from the respective Dzongkhag for children not registered within one year of birth.

Status of Immigrant on divorce or demise of Bhutanese spouse

47. A foreigner married to a Bhutanese, upon divorce or demise of the Bhutanese spouse, without any child born to them, shall lose his or her immigrant status and his or her residency in the Kingdom. Under such circumstances, the foreigner shall be required to leave the Kingdom within the timeframe stipulated by the Department.

NON-IMMIGRANT

48. The following categories of visitors, among others, shall be categorized as a non-immigrant:

- (a) Diplomat;
- (b) Official;
- (c) Student;
- (d) Business person;
- (e) Professional;
- (f) Skilled worker;
- (g) Tourist;
- (h) Sports person;

- (i) Cultural troupe;
 - (j) Media person;
 - (k) Transit person;
 - (l) Airline crew member and ground staff;
 - (m) Overseas employee;
 - (n) Artiste;
 - (o) Personal guest; and
 - (p) Disaster relief team.
49. Visa/Entry permit for children under 18 years, if intending to travel to the Kingdom unaccompanied by either of the child's parents or a legal guardian shall be processed based on the consent of a parent or legal guardian.
50. Visa/Entry permit for a non-tourist shall be processed in line with the Guideline for non-tourist categories approved by the Government.

Conditions applicable to Non-Immigrant

51. A foreigner who has entered as a non-immigrant as per Chapter 5 of the Act shall not be entitled to apply for permanent residency or citizenship.
52. An overseas employee cleared in accordance with Section 41 of the Act may be permitted to stay in the Kingdom for the duration of his or her tenure as prescribed by Section 41 (c) of the Act.
53. A foreigner who is cleared as a promoter or investor, to operate an approved Foreign Direct Investment in accordance with section 43 of the Act may be permitted to stay in the Kingdom as per Section 43 (e) of the Act.

He or she shall be issued an Investor Permit by the Department.

54. A foreigner cleared as a regular student in accordance with section 36 of the Act may be permitted to stay in the Kingdom for five years or the actual duration of stay whichever is less.
55. A foreigner cleared as a dependent shall be permitted to stay in the Kingdom as per the tenure of the principal permit holder.
56. A foreigner cleared as a tourist shall be permitted to stay in the Kingdom for the actual duration of stay or ninety days, whichever is less.
57. A foreigner who shall be permitted to stay in the Kingdom for the actual duration or maximum of thirty days whichever is less includes the following:
 - (a) Sportsman participating in regional or international sporting events;
 - (b) Individual participating in cultural exchange programs or expositions;
 - (c) Accredited media personnel;
 - (d) Artist for approved entertainment programs;
 - (e) Business guest; and
 - (f) Official guest
58. A foreigner shall be permitted to change the purpose of visit only upon proper exit from the Kingdom for at least fifteen days.

59. Notwithstanding Rule 58 above, a foreigner who is already in the Kingdom on a non-tourist visa or Entry Permit shall be permitted to obtain a tourist visa or Entry Permit without the requirement to exit the Kingdom.
60. Visa or Entry Permit may be transferred to a new passport or travel document upon written request from the foreigner.
61. A foreigner in transit to another country shall be issued a transit visa for 48 hours.
62. Spouse and children shall be permitted only for the following categories of foreigners;
 - (a) Persons covered under Section 77 of the Act;
 - (b) Professional staff of resident Missions and International Organizations;
 - (c) Investor/promoters of FDI companies in the Kingdom;
 - (d) Foreign workers in the professional category if the duration of their work is at least ninety days; and
 - (e) Trader Permit holder.
63. Visa or Entry Permit shall not be issued to interns and independent volunteers.
64. Visa or Entry Permit applications for organizers or participants of cultural programs or national events shall be processed based on clearance by the relevant agency of the Government.

Visa

65. All foreigners who intend to visit the Kingdom shall possess a valid e-Visa unless exempted by bilateral agreements.
66. The e-Visa alone shall not guarantee the right to enter or stay in the Kingdom unless the entry permission is endorsed on the passport by an immigration officer at the port of entry.
67. An immigration officer at the port of entry shall endorse visa for the actual duration of stay or thirty days, whichever is less.
68. A minimum of five working days is required for processing and issuance of visa clearance upon receipt of the required documents.

Gratis Visa

69. Gratis visa may be issued to the following:
 - (a) Holders of Diplomatic and Official passports;
 - (b) Holders of UN passport;
 - (c) Persons exempted by Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Government; and
 - (d) Government delegation recommended by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade.

Visa On Arrival

70. Nationals of Thailand and Switzerland holding Diplomatic or Official passports shall be eligible for visa on arrival as per bilateral agreement.

71. Nationals of Bangladesh and the Maldives holding a valid passport shall be eligible for visa on arrival as per bilateral agreement.

Entry Permit

72. Nationals of India shall be eligible for Entry Permit.
73. Nationals of India shall produce a passport or voter identity card at the port of entry to be eligible for Entry Permit.
74. Nationals of India below 18 years may be issued Entry Permit based on passport or birth certificate provided he or she is accompanied by either parent or a legal guardian.

Recommending Authority

75. Visa or Entry Permit for a foreigner as a non-tourist shall be recommended by a relevant Government agency. The recommending agency shall be as identified in the Guideline for non-tourist visa/permit categories approved by the Government.
76. The recommending agency shall duly vet the application to ensure that only legitimate non-tourist applications are recommended. Misuse of this authority shall be deemed fraudulent or wilful misrepresentation of a material fact and the Head of the recommending agency shall be liable for prosecution in line with the Act for not having exercised due diligence.

Marriage Application under process

77. A foreigner whose application for marriage with a Bhutanese is under process and children of such parentage may be granted immigration permit. The

immigration permit may be extended for a duration of up to ninety days from the date of entry. Thereafter, they shall be required to stay outside the Kingdom for at least thirty days.

78. A child born in Bhutan to a Bhutanese and a foreigner may be permitted to stay in the Kingdom on an immigration permit as may be decided by the Department.

Personal Guest of Bhutanese

79. Immigration permit for personal guests shall be limited to a maximum of two persons in a year. The duration for personal guest shall be for the actual duration or a maximum of thirty days whichever is less.

80. Immigration permit for personal guests shall not be claimed as an entitlement. The Bhutanese must satisfy the following conditions to be eligible to apply for a personal guest:

- (a) Establish acquaintance with the guest through documentary evidence;
- (b) Be at least eighteen years of age at the time of application; and
- (c) Be in the Kingdom during the scheduled visit of the guest.

81. Immigration permit for personal guests shall be approved by the Personal Guest Committee constituted by the Department. The Head of the Department shall not be a member of the Committee.

82. The Bhutanese applicant shall submit the following:

- (a) A duly filled personal guest application form signed by the Bhutanese applicant as prescribed by the Department;
- (b) A duly filled visa/ Entry Permit application form signed by the guest as prescribed by the Department;
- (c) A copy of Citizenship Identity Card of the Bhutanese applicant;
- (d) A passport or identity document of the guest;
- (e) Birth certificate if the guest is under 18 years of age;
- (f) A detailed travel itinerary of the guest; and
- (g) Any other supporting document to authenticate the case.

83. The Committee shall use the following criteria among others to assess a personal guest application:

- (a) The acquaintance with the guest must be made in the country of the guest;
- (b) If the acquaintance is made in a country other than the country of the guest, then the duration of acquaintance must be for a continuous duration of at least six months;
- (c) Acquaintance must be established with documentary evidence;
- (d) Evidence of acquaintance shall be valid for single use only; and
- (e) The guest must not have been invited as a personal guest for the last three years. This condition shall not apply if the guest is a relative of the host. Such a relationship must be established through documentary evidence.

Adult children, parents and parents-in-law

84. A resident diplomat shall be eligible to invite their parents, parents-in-law and adult children once in a year for the actual duration or thirty days whichever is less.
85. A professional staff of resident Missions and International Organizations shall be eligible to invite their parents, parents-in-law and adult children once in a year for the actual duration or thirty days whichever is less.
86. An investor of FDI companies established in the Kingdom shall be eligible to invite their parents, parents-in-law and adult children once in a year for the actual duration or thirty days whichever is less.
87. A foreign worker in the professional category after working in the Kingdom for at least six months, may be permitted to invite their parents, parents-in-law and adult children once in a year for the actual duration or thirty days whichever is less.
88. A foreign student after at least six months of study in the Kingdom, may be permitted to invite their parents, parents-in-law and adult children once in a year for the actual duration or thirty days whichever is less.
89. Parents or legal guardian of a foreign student who is below 18 years of age, enrolled in an academic course of at least six months in the Kingdom, may be permitted to accompany or visit their child once in a year for the actual duration of stay or thirty days whichever is less.

90. A foreigner eligible to invite parents, parents-in-law, spouse, or children shall submit documentary evidence confirming the relationship. The evidence must be in English or translated into English, and be duly notarized by a public notary.

Work Permit

91. The minimum age for employment of a foreign worker in the Kingdom shall be 18 years.
92. The maximum age for employment of a foreign worker in the Kingdom shall be:
- (a) 65 years for employment in professional category;
 - (b) 55 years for employment in manual category and 60 years for other categories under non-professional category.
93. An employer seeking to recruit a foreign worker shall obtain approval from the Department of Labour prior to entry into the Kingdom.
94. The approval from the Department of Labour shall specify the following:
- (a) the name and passport number or voter identity card number of the foreign worker(s);
 - (b) the categorization of the foreign worker as professional or non-professional; and
 - (c) Name of the employer, Dzongkhag, work location and the duration of work.
95. The employer after receiving the approval from the Department of Labour shall obtain work permit from the respective immigration offices.

96. The employer shall import foreign workers into the interior parts of the Kingdom as per the zonation system prescribed under Annexure II.
97. The employer and the foreign worker shall be required to execute a legal contract with the Department.
98. The employer shall ensure that the foreign worker work only in the approved occupation, worksite and for the employer specified in the work permit.
99. The employer shall ensure that the foreign worker engaged in the construction sector resides in the vicinity of the work site.
100. The employer shall ensure timely repatriation of the foreign worker upon completion of work in the Kingdom.
101. The employer of a border town foreign worker shall ensure that the foreign worker exit daily.
102. A foreign worker in the non-professional category on completion of three years of work in the Kingdom shall be required to exit and remain outside the Kingdom for thirty days.
103. Any dispute between an employer and a foreign worker may be settled in line with Labour and Employment laws, rules and regulations.

Student Permit

104. A student permit may be issued to a foreigner who has entered the Kingdom to undertake study in an academic

institution, school, or college including *shedra* and *drupdey*.

105. A student shall produce evidence of regular attendance and satisfactory academic progress for renewal of the student permit.
106. Student permit shall not be renewed beyond the length of course of study or five years whichever is less.

Trader Permit

107. Trader Permit shall be renewed on the basis of a valid trade license issued by the relevant agency of the Government.
108. Trader Permit shall be liable for cancellation if:
 - (a) The license holder or his or her direct dependent is not operating the business in the Kingdom;
 - (b) Obligations assumed by the Trader Permit holder relating to transfer or renewal of business license are not fulfilled.
109. Trader Permit holders shall obtain Route Permit for movement outside their designated place of residence.

Dependent Permit

110. Dependent permit shall be issued to spouse and dependent children of:
 - (a) Work permit holders in the professional category whose duration of work is at least three months;
 - (b) Investors/promoters of FDI established in the Kingdom; and
 - (c) Uniformed personnel of project DANTAK and IMTRAT.

111. For existing trader permit holders in the Kingdom, dependent permit shall be issued only to his or her direct dependents. The dependents should have lived in the Kingdom with the license holder and must be registered with the Department.

Route Permit

112. A foreigner shall be required to obtain a route permit to travel to places not specified in his or her immigration permit.
113. Notwithstanding Rule 112 above, route permit shall not be required if a foreigner is:
- (a) Holding a tourist visa or permit;
 - (b) Entering or exiting the Kingdom; or
 - (c) En-route to the place specified in the immigration permit.
114. A foreigner shall produce the route permit at the checkpoints or on demand by immigration officer.
115. Route permit shall be valid for movement in the municipal areas only unless otherwise specified.
116. Route permit shall be valid for multiple travel within the validity of the route permit.
117. Route permit may be issued from the nearest immigration office.

Applicable Fee

118. A visa fee shall be applicable at the time of processing visa. The visa fee shall be non-transferable and non-refundable.

119. Visa fee for tourist visa shall be 40 US dollar.
120. Visa fee for other categories of visas shall be Nu. 5,000/- unless prescribed otherwise under Annexure III.
121. A fee shall be applicable for extension of visa beyond the e-Visa clearance. The visa extension fee shall be as prescribed under Annexure III.
122. Visa endorsement fee shall be applicable for re-entry endorsement. The visa endorsement fee shall be as prescribed under Annexure IV.
123. Applicable fees for other immigration services shall be levied as prescribed under Annexure V.

INSPECTION

124. Immigration officer shall undertake inspection at construction sites, commercial areas, residential areas and official premises, among others.
125. Immigration officer shall disclose their identity before proceeding with inspection.
126. Immigration officer shall impose fines and penalties in accordance with the Immigration Act and this Rules and Regulations for an immigration offence or violation.
127. Immigration officer may liaise with relevant agencies in the Kingdom in cases involving a foreigner child found without immigration permit to ensure care and safe repatriation.

Cancellation of Immigration Permits

128. Immigration officer may cancel an immigration permit if:

- (a) A foreigner commits an immigration offence or violation; or
- (b) The immigration permit holder has exited the Kingdom. The person seeking to cancel an immigration permit shall:
 - (i) Establish that the foreigner has exited the Kingdom;
 - (ii) Submit an undertaking prescribed by the Department assuming accountability relating to cancellation of immigration permit; and
 - (iii) Pay fines, if applicable.

Denial of Immigration Service

129. The Department shall deny immigration services to a foreigner if he or she:

- (a) Has a criminal record;
- (b) Produces a fake document;
- (c) Is in violation of laws of the Kingdom;
- (d) Is under deportation order;
- (e) Poses a threat to social, cultural, security and wellbeing of the nation;
- (f) Is deemed not conducive to public good; or
- (g) Commits an immigration offence.

130. The Department shall deny immigration services to a person if he or she:

- (a) Fails to report to immigration office despite being notified in writing;
- (b) Resorts to deceptive practice while applying for immigration service;
- (c) Commits an immigration offence; or
- (d) Violates any other laws of the Kingdom.

131. The Department may withhold the permission of a foreign worker to re-enter the Kingdom on the recommendation of the relevant agency of the Government.
132. The Department may lift the entry restriction imposed under Rule 131 based on the recommendation of the relevant agency of the Government.

Offences and Penalties

133. A person shall be liable for petty misdemeanour if he or she:
 - (a) knowingly and without any reasonable cause obstructs the immigration officers in execution of lawful duties; or
 - (b) knowingly reports false information to the immigration authority with intent to deceive the authority.
134. A person who enters or obtains entry or stays in the Kingdom by false or misleading representation or by concealment of a material fact or without a valid immigration documents shall be liable for the offence of petty misdemeanour and the person shall be deported.
135. A person shall be liable for the offence of the felony of the fourth degree, if he or she:
 - (a) hires or recruits for employment a foreigner knowing that such person is unauthorized to be in the Kingdom;
 - (b) hires or recruits for employment a foreigner without complying with the requirements under the Immigration Act;

- (c) knowingly aids, abets, assists any foreigner to depart or enter the Kingdom with invalid travel documents;
 - (d) knowingly aids, abets, assists any foreigner by furnishing false documents or other means to facilitate unlawful departure or entry into the Kingdom; or
 - (e) harbours an inadmissible foreigner.
136. A person shall be liable for the offence of misdemeanour if he or she:
- (a) falsely represents, or has falsely represented himself to be a citizen of the Kingdom for any purpose or benefits;
 - (b) fraudulently or willfully misrepresents a material fact and procures a visa or any immigration documents for admission into the Kingdom; or
 - (c) conceals the presence of an unauthorized person in the Kingdom.
137. A person shall be liable for an offence of misdemeanour, if he or she brings any unauthorized foreigner into the Kingdom despite having exercised due diligence in ascertaining the person's admissibility.
138. A person shall be liable for the offence of misdemeanour, if he or she willfully fails or refuses to:
- (a) make timely application in good faith for travel or other documents necessary for his departure; or
 - (b) present himself or herself for removal at the time and place as required by the authority pursuant to the removal order.
139. A person shall be liable for the offence of fourth degree felony, if he or she:

- (a) knowingly brings or attempts to bring to the Kingdom a foreigner in any manner whatsoever through a place other than a designated port of entry or place;
 - (b) willfully disregards the fact that a foreigner has entered, or remained in the Kingdom in violation of laws and transports, or moves such person within the Kingdom by means of transportation or otherwise, in furtherance of such violation of laws; or
 - (c) willfully disregards the fact that a foreigner has not received prior official authorization to enter, or reside in the Kingdom and brings such person to the Kingdom in any manner whatsoever.
140. A person shall be liable for the offence of fourth degree felony, if he tampers with the immigration documents knowing that he does not have the authority to do so and removes, mutilates, destroys, conceals, makes a false entry in, or falsely alters any record or other written instrument filed with, deposited in, or otherwise constituting a record of immigration office.
141. A person shall be liable for the offence of third degree felony, if he or she:
- (a) makes, completes, executes, authenticates or issues immigration document using the authority of another, who did not authorize the person to use the authority; or
 - (b) causes any circumstance to exist or make any false entry in any book or record, or makes any document containing false statement, intending that such circumstances may appear in evidence in a judicial proceeding, or in any other proceeding conducted by lawful authority.

Fines

142. The amount of fine shall be progressive.
143. A tourist shall be imposed with a fine of Nu. 18,215/- for each day of overstay.
144. A non-tourist shall be imposed with a lump-sum fine of Nu. 6,450/- and Nu. 215/- for each day of overstay.
145. A fine of Nu. 215/- shall be imposed for each day of late renewal of immigration permit.
146. A fine of Nu. 215/- shall be imposed for non-possession of immigration permit during the site inspection or verification at the check point.
147. A fine of Nu. 1,505/- shall be imposed for overnight stay by a border town foreign worker.
148. A fine of Nu. 4,300/- shall be imposed per person for misuse of immigration permit or purpose of visit.
149. A fine of Nu. 4,300/- shall be imposed per person for movement without a Route Permit.
150. A fine of Nu. 2,150/- shall be imposed per person for bypassing immigration checkpoint.
151. A fine of Nu. 6,450/- shall be imposed on the foreigner and the carrier, if a foreigner produces a passport or identity document other than the one submitted at the

time of visa or Entry Permit clearance. The case maybe regularized thereafter if found genuine.

152. A fine of Nu. 25,800/- shall be imposed for impersonation of an individual other than uniformed personnel or official, and for production of fake identification documents.
153. A fine of Nu. 25,800/- shall be imposed for illegal immigrant and he or she shall be immediately deported from the nearest exit point.
154. A fine of Nu. 25,800/- shall be imposed for a child born to a foreigner and a Bhutanese if he or she is found residing in the Kingdom without being registered with the Department.
155. A fine of Nu. 25,800/- shall be imposed for foreigner who is detected with a cancelled immigration permit, and he or she shall be immediately deported from the nearest point of exit.
156. Owners and operators of all modes of carriers and individuals who transports a foreigner into or out of the Kingdom by air or land without a valid passport or identification document despite having exercised due diligence, shall be levied a fine of Nu. 25,800/-. The owner, operator or individual, as applicable, shall transport the foreigner back to the point of origin.
157. In case an invalid immigration permit is reported to immigration office, a fine of Nu. 4,300/- or the actual fine, whichever is less, may be imposed if there is reasonable ground establishing that the foreigner has

exited the Kingdom.

158. A valid immigration permit, which has been cancelled may be reinstated upon payment of a fine of Nu. 4,300/- by the employer. The fine shall not be applicable if the reinstatement is requested within one week of cancellation of the immigration permit.
159. A foreigner overstaying the validity of immigration permit shall be liable for applicable fines and additional penalties as follows:
- (a) Overstay for less than two months shall be barred from re-entry for three months;
 - (b) Overstay for more than two months but less than three months shall be barred from re-entry for six months;
 - (c) Overstay for more than three months shall be barred from re-entry for one year.

Interpretation

160. The interpretation of the Ministry of Home Affairs shall be final.

Amendment

161. This Rules and Regulations may be amended by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Definition

162. In this Rules and Regulations unless the context otherwise require:
- (a) “Agency” means the Legislative body, Judiciary, Ministry, Constitutional Offices, Autonomous Agency, Corporation, Civil Society Organization

Authority, Dzongkhags or a statutory body of the Government;

- (b) “Airline” means national or foreign owned airline operating services to and from the Kingdom;
- (c) “Department” means the Department of Immigration;
- (d) “Dependent” means spouse and children below 18 years of age;
- (e) “Immigrant and Non-Immigrant” as defined under Chapter 4 and 5, and the relevant sections of the Immigration Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2007;
- (f) “Immigration officer” means an official of the Government appointed to exercise the functions, powers and duties under this rule.
- (g) “Immigration permit” means any form of valid document including visa issued by the Department to a foreigner for specific purpose to facilitate entry, stay, travel and exit;
- (h) “Ministry” means the Ministry of Home Affairs;
- (i) “Official Tenure” means a period for which a foreigner is allowed to stay in the Kingdom as an employee of a designated consulate office, embassy of foreign country;
- (j) “Prohibited areas” means the area categorized as prohibited areas by the Government;
- (k) “Restricted areas” means the area categorized as restricted area by the Government; and
- (l) “Student” means a person who is enrolled in school or university or monastic institutes or a person coming to the Kingdom under student exchange program.
- (m) “Wage rate” means the daily minimum wage rate for National Work Force in the Kingdom.

Annexure I

Designated Port of Entry and Exit

1. International Airport, Paro
2. Border Checkpoint, Gelephu
3. Border Checkpoint, Phuentsholing
4. Border Checkpoint, Samdrup Jongkhar
5. Border Checkpoint, Samtse

Annexure II

Zonation System for import of foreign workers

1. Samtse Port of Entry

- i. Samtse Dzongkhag
- ii. Haa Dzongkhag
- iii. Paro Dzongkhag

2. Phuentsholing Port of Entry

- i. Chukha Dzongkhag
- ii. Thimphu Dzongkhag
- iii. Gasa Dzongkhag

3. Gelephu Port of Entry

- i. Sarpang Dzongkhag
- ii. Tsirang Dzongkhag
- iii. Dagana Dzongkhag
- iv. Wangdiphodrang Dzongkhag
- v. Punakha Dzongkhag
- vi. Trongsa Dzongkhag
- vii. Bumthang Dzongkhag
- viii. Zhemgang Dzongkhag

4. Samdrup Jongkhar Port of Entry

- i. Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag
- ii. Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag
- iii. Tashigang Dzongkhag
- iv. Tashi Yangtse Dzongkhag
- v. Mongar Dzongkhag
- vi. Lhuentse Dzongkhag

Annexure III

Visa fees:

Sl. #	Duration	Visa fee	Visa Type
1	30 days and below	Nu. 5000	Single Entry
2	31 - 90 days	Nu. 12000	Multiple Entry
3	91 days - 1 year	Nu. 17000	
4	More than 1 year - 2 years	Nu. 22000	
5	More than 2 years - 3 years	Nu. 27000	

Visa extension fees

- (a) For duration up to three months Nu. 2,000/-
- (b) For duration up to six months Nu. 3,000/-
- (c) For duration up to 1 year Nu. 5,000/-

Note: Extension fee shall not be applicable for endorsement of visa in the passport as per the validity of the initial e-Visa clearance.

Annexure IV

Re-entry Visa fees

- (a) Single re-entry fees Nu. 2,500/-
- (b) Double re-entry fees Nu. 5,000/-
- (c) Triple re-entry fees Nu. 7,500/-

- (d) Multiple re-entry fees Nu. 12,000/-

Annexure V

Immigration Services Fee

1. Work Permit:

- (a) Initial fee: Nu. 300/-
- (b) Renewal fee: 100% increase on the last renewal
- (c) Loss and Damage fee: Nu. 500/-

Note: The renewal fee shall remain constant after the 4th renewal.

2. Other Card fees:

(a)

Sl. #	Duration	Other cards
1	1 year	300
4	More than 1 year - 2 years	600
5	More than 2 years - 3 years	900

- (b) Loss and Damage fee: Nu. 500/-
- (c) Change of permissible details: Nu. 300/-