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مجلس الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا للترفيه والحدب السياحي
Middle East and North Africa Leisure & Attractions Council

LET'S TALK SAFETY - APRIL 2024

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE FOR MANAGING BEACHES

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General

You should recognise the multifaceted uses of beaches, encompassing:

- Recreation and leisure
- Coastal protection
- Sporting activities
- Educational events, socio-cultural, religious, or sporting gatherings
- Nature conservation
- Fishing and collecting shellfish
- Military activities

Within this context, the organisation places increasing emphasis on safety and security concerns at beaches. Both beach operators and local authorities prioritise ensuring the physical safety of individuals and safeguarding the natural environment.



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While acknowledging challenges in universal beach accessibility, we should endeavor to maximise accessibility for all beaches. Feasibility permitting, the organisation aims to ensure that all beach equipment and facilities are accessible to diverse user groups, including individuals with specific needs. This effort involves providing designated parking spaces, sanitary services, first aid facilities, bars, restaurants, and comprehensive practical information at beach entrances.



Risks

Failing to adopt a standards-based approach to beach management poses numerous risks, including the following potential examples:



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a) Economic Impact:

- Increased vulnerability to competition from neighbouring areas.
- Inadequate planning for beach tourism development, leading to insensitive landscaping, obstructed sea views, and poorly designed coastal structures.
- Reduced investment in tourism products.
- Negative portrayal in the media due to mismanagement.
- Inadequately managed facilities and equipment, impacting visitor experiences.

b) Social Implications:

- Falling short of user expectations, resulting in dissatisfaction.
- Risks related to health and safety, including accidents and illnesses.
- Diminished interest from residents in frequenting the beach due to challenged perceptions.
- Development of a reputation for criminal or nuisance activities.
- Ineffective planning management contributing to social challenges.
- Increased pollution levels, impacting the environment and public health

Linking Beach Operation with Hazard Management

Emphasises the integration of suitable beach designs into strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, develops a comprehensive code of practice. This code of practice may encompass recommendations regarding:

- Beach access design manual.
- Building and design manual for beach facilities (comfort services).
- Development control guidelines for beach setback areas.
- Beach conservation measures.
- Establishment and regulation of zones on beaches.
- Placement, maintenance, and management of public rescue equipment and facilities.
- Dissemination of beach safety information.
- Effective beach management and maintenance protocols.

This approach ensures that beach management aligns with standards promoting safety, sustainability, and efficient usage for all beach users.



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Planning

Identification of health risks.

You should maintain a documented procedure designed to identify direct or indirect health risks that could impact the well-being of beach users. This identification process encompasses various risk groups, including:

- Drinkable water supply points.
- Beach surface cleanliness.
- Quality of bathing water.
- Sanitary risks associated with tidal conditions.
- Potential impact of heavy rains causing flooding and temporary water quality deterioration.
- Physical characteristics of the beach (e.g., surfaces, man-made structures, rocks), considering coastal erosion and flooding risks.
- Flora, fauna, and marine life assessments.

Evaluation of installations and equipment related to beach services, along with essential safety information and warnings.

Furthermore, the evaluation results for each criterion in the above list are based on objective evidence, enabling verification of the evaluation outcomes.

To ensure bathing water quality aligns with standards, you should adhere to quality guidelines set by the World Health Organization (WHO). This commitment aims to maintain a high standard of water quality for the safety and well-being of beach users.





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Emergency Planning

You are obligated to establish and document specific plans designed for emergency situations. These plans aim to prevent and mitigate associated risks by:

- Identifying and allocating resources to address emergency scenarios.
- Clearly defining responsibilities and authorities concerning responses to these situations.

The organisation shall collaborate with stakeholders to ensure alignment and integration of emergency response plans. Systems are established to effectively coordinate with these stakeholders. Ensuring the availability of necessary resources to effectively execute the emergency plans should be a priority for the organisation.

The organisation should commit to conducting annual practice exercises to evaluate and record the effectiveness of the emergency plans. Additionally, any occurrence of accidents or emergency situations prompts immediate revision of the plans to enhance their efficacy.

You should communicate all updates and revisions made to the emergency plan promptly to the emergency services controller for comprehensive alignment and preparedness.





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Beach Operation, Organisation Plan and Maintenance

The following requirements should be implemented into its operational framework:

- Clear delineation of distinct bathing and non-bathing seasons is integrated into our operational structure.
- You should have operational strategies emphasising meticulous planning for the uses and organisation of the beach throughout various seasons, with a focused optimisation for the bathing season.
- Implementation of efficient utilisation and organisation of the bathing area, including provisions for buoys, motorboats, and floating platforms, is a key aspect of our operations.
- Identification, utilisation, and systematic organisation of access points have been integrated into our operational protocols.
- Your operational plan should incorporate relevant national/local regulations defining permissible uses and conditions for diverse activities, encompassing bars, open-air eating places, bans, and signage.
- Zoning studies should aim at evaluating tourist utilisation and determining the carrying capacity of the beach are part of your operational strategies. This aligns with the commitment to sustainable and effective beach management practices.



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Concerning maintenance protocols, the organisation shall:

- Nominate an individual, alongside other responsibilities, tasked specifically with ensuring the proper maintenance of existing beach infrastructure.
- Designate a reliable supplier responsible for maintaining any installations at the beach, ensuring adherence to established guidelines to achieve the desired levels of quality and service outlined in this International Standard.
- Uphold beach cleanliness as a priority.
- Ensure continuous maintenance of beach installations and equipment to maintain their optimal condition for use. Establish ongoing activities to guarantee their proper operation and preservation.
- Conduct periodic reviews and meticulously document maintenance activities to ensure the installations and equipment are operating correctly. Whenever feasible, these checks should coincide with cleaning activities, with special attention given to preventive maintenance tasks.

The maintenance and monitoring plan mandated for the beach operator, encompasses the following:

- Encompassing all beach installations and equipment, whether mobile or fixed, ensuring they are maintained in optimal condition suitable for their intended use.
- Prioritising the alignment of these installations and equipment with user expectations, thereby adapting them accordingly.
- Detailing comprehensive maintenance routines and frequencies, including daily, weekly, monthly, and annual activities. This plan incorporates a meticulous verification process to validate the operations carried out.
- Incorporating considerations for environmental situations characteristic of each beach, outlining specific conditions that could arise.



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Preventative maintenance tasks are scheduled preferably during periods of low beach activity. However, any imperative corrective maintenance required during high-activity periods shall be announced, indicating alternative usage options for users.



The establishment of a responsive corrective maintenance system is paramount. Utilising appropriate human and material resources ensures a swift reinstatement of affected installations for prompt use. Response times, tailored to the type and severity of the issue, are defined by the beach operator.

Efficient communication systems are instituted to enable service providers to promptly contact maintenance services to report operational or maintenance-related incidents. Simultaneously, the system provides adequate mechanisms for installation users to report anomalies. Supervisory tasks are meticulously recorded to ensure effective oversight and management.

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