

FAQs ON THE CHANGES IN HAJJ REGISTRATION (WEF 18 JULY 2009)

QUESTION (Q) 1: What are the types of categories introduced in the Hajj registration?

ANSWER (A) 1: Before the latest changes were introduced, there was only one category that is the Individual Scheme category. But from 18 July 2009, two additional categories were introduced that is the Family Scheme and the Exemption Scheme for those applicants who had performed the hajj.

Q2: What does the Individual Scheme category mean?

A2: The Individual Scheme category refers to the registration by applicant who has not performed the hajj. They are given priority based on order of registration number upon registration.

For example, based on the official hajj quota for Singapore of 680, an applicant whose registration number starts from 1 to 680 for each hajj year will be given a Confirmation Letter within 2 weeks after the announcement on the hajj package sales agents (General Sales Agents or GSA) by Muis is published in the mass media for the particular hajj year.

If their registration number is 681 and above, they will be given an Acknowledgement Letter within the same period after the announcement of the GSAs' appointment.

Q3: What does the Family Scheme category mean then?

A3: Parents who have not performed the hajj may register with their children below the age of 18 years old under the Family Scheme. Children below 18 years old cannot submit an individual application.

Nevertheless, individually they are also subject to the registration number and will be given priority based on order of their registration number. The main objective for the introduction of this scheme was to prevent family members from being separated too far based on their registration number. This increases their chances for them to perform the hajj as a family unit.

If either one of the parents or the children below 18 years old had performed the hajj, they do not fulfil the eligibility criteria under the Family Scheme. They must appeal to the Muis' Pilgrimage Committee for consideration. The appeal form must be completed and returned to Muis.

Registration for this scheme can be made from 18 July 2009 although its implementation will only begin for Hajj 1431H/ 2010 season.

Example 1: A husband and wife registered together with their 3 children aged 17, 10 and 4 years old to perform the hajj. All of them have never performed the hajj. Their registration numbers are 100 to 104 for Hajj year 2009. After Muis has announced the appointment of the GSAs for that year, a Confirmation Letter will be sent to the whole family within 2 weeks after the announcement of the GSAs' appointment. They will be given priority because their registration numbers are within 680 – the number of official hajj quota for Singapore.

Example 2: A husband and wife registered together with their 4 children aged 16, 13, 9 and 3 years old to perform the hajj. The wife had performed the hajj. So did her 13 years old child. Their registration numbers are 5 to 10. Although their registration numbers are within the 680, they must still complete the appeal form because their eligibility criteria are affected as the wife and child aged 13 years old had performed the hajj.

Q4: How about the Exemption Scheme for those who had performed the hajj?

A4: This scheme is a flexibility or an exemption for applicants who had performed the hajj because he needs to accompany and becomes a:

- Mahram to female below 45 years old who has not performed the hajj
- Mahram to female above 45 years old who has not performed the hajj and need assistance. However, they must appeal to the Muis' Pilgrimage Committee for consideration. The appeal form must be completed and returned to Muis.

This exemption is also given to those who render assistance to their immediate family members who are aged, sick, disabled, etc. who perform the hajj for the first time. However, they must also appeal to the Muis' Pilgrimage Committee for consideration. The appeal form must be completed and returned to Muis.

Q5: What is the difference between a Confirmation Letter and an Acknowledgement Letter?

A5: Confirmation Letter is given to those whose registration numbers are within 680. It is an offer by Muis for them to perform the hajj. If they refuse the offer, their places will be offered to the applicants who have been given the Acknowledgement Letter.

Acknowledgement Letter is given to those whose registration numbers are 681 and above. It is an acknowledgement by Muis that their registrations have been received but their chances to perform the hajj is still not guaranteed. Their chances are higher if there are withdrawals from the applicants who were given the Confirmation Letter or the number of additional hajj places for Singapore exceeds 680 whereby their registration numbers are within the additional places.

Q6: Can female below 45 years old without mahram and had not performed the hajj register?

A6: They can register from the age of 40 years old for the hajj registration year when they reach 45 years old.

Q7: Can the applicants who have received the Confirmation Letter and Acknowledgement Letter make payment to the GSA?

A7: Those who have received the Confirmation Letter are advised to make progressive payments to the GSA based on the payment schedule and conditions for refund.

For those who have received the Acknowledgement Letter, Muis has no objection for them to make progressive payments to the GSA based on the payment schedule and conditions for refund.

Q8: What does the condition for refund mean?

A8: Applicants who are unsuccessful to get the hajj visa due to lesser number of places allocated by the Saudi authorities will receive a full refund on monies paid for the hajj package to their GSA, less S\$100. The refund from the GSA will be made within 1 month after the announcement by Muis on the number of places.

(Updated on 1 August 2009)