

## **SINDH GOVERNMENT ACCREDITATION RULES – 2010**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Sindh Information Department has planned and decided to establish the, "**Computerized Accreditation Card System**" in the directorate of Press Information, Government of Sindh to issue Accreditation Cards to the journalists. This will help to keep the computerized data of the card holders and avoid misuse and issuance of fake Accreditation Cards to irrelevant personal.

To achieve the above object, a computerized Accreditation Card application form has been designed and developed along with a sample of proposed computerized electronic Accreditation Card with bar-code matching with to the NIC of the Accreditation Card holder.

### **ACCREDITATION RULES FOR ELECTRONIC PRINT MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE AND CAMERAMAN/PHOTOGRAPHER (AMENDED) 2010**

#### **(1) SHORT TITLE:**

These rules shall be called Government of Sindh Accreditation Cards Rules – 2010 and shall Govern the Accreditation at Provincial, Regional and District Headquarters, of Government of Sindh for Electronic, Print Media Correspondents/Reporters/Cameramen/Photographers Representatives of National and Regional Newspapers Agencies and other Media.

#### **COMING INTO FORCE:**

These rules shall come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 and shall repeal and substitute all existing previous rules relating to Accreditation policy and will be revised after every two-three years.

#### **(3) PROVINCIAL & DIVISIONAL ACCREDITATION CARDS COMMITTEE:**

In order to decide and deal with the Accreditation cases the Accreditation Card Committee shall be set up at Provincial and Regional Headquarters.

#### **(3) PROVINCIAL ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE:**

(a) The Provincial Accreditation Committee shall be headed by Secretary Information, Government of Sindh.

(b) The Provincial Accreditation Committee shall consist of at least 07 and not more than 10 senior journalists and representatives to be taken from various Journalists Associations, News Agencies, TV Journalists and newspapers appearing the English, Urdu, Sindh, Gujrati languages and Director Information (Press Information) Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana and Mirpurkhas.

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(c) The Director Information, Directorate of Press Information shall be issuing authority for the Provincial Accreditation Committee.

(3) (ii) **DIVISIONAL/REGIONAL ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE:**

(a) The Divisional/Regional Committee shall be headed by Director General, Public Relations.

(b) The Divisional/Regional Accreditation Committee shall consist (6) senior journalists, including one Photographer and a TV Correspondent/ Cameraman, working in the respective division. The members of Divisional/Regional Accreditation Committee shall, preferably consisting of the senior representatives from main newspapers. The Director Information of respective Division/Region will be issuing authority of the Regional Accreditation Committee

(c) The Provincial and Divisional Accreditation Committee shall meet at least once a quarter and its composition shall be revised after every 3 years.

(4) **ACCREDITATION CARDS:**

(i) The responsibility of Provincial/Divisional/Regional Accreditation Committee shall be to scrutinize the eligibility of an applicant and also his character and conduct as a journalist and extent to which he is engaged in processional activity.

(ii) The Accreditation Committee may, in its direction/discretions, issue the Accreditation Cards to the genuine professional/ full time working journalists, photographers, cameramen and representatives of Newspapers/ News Agency & Electronic Media.

(iii) The Accreditation cards for free-lance journalists having at least 10 years standing in his profession will also be issued subject to the conditions and documents from the applicant as laid in both conditions i.e. (4-ii and 4-iii).

(iv) The applicant shall submit his application on "Prescribed Computerized Form in Original" alongwith a copy of appointment letter contract carrying the details of terms and conditions, salary or allowances and a photocopy of NIC and organization card.

(v) Letter of recommendation (in original) issued by the Editor concerned.

(vi) The documentary evidence to the satisfaction of the Accreditation Cards Committee confirming that the applicant has at least two years experience of working as journalist, Photographer, Cameraman and is a bonafied full time journalist, or, in case of a new newspapers, periodical included in the media list by the Federal Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, or a newspapers periodical having published regularly without any default since last six (6) months.



- (vii) Accreditation will be given to the person working in Daily and Weekly Newspapers News Agency, Radio News and Television News, editor of periodical, (periodical means, the publication, which come out with specific periodicity functioning without reporters can be considered for Accreditation).
- (viii) The Provincial Accreditation Committee shall exercise full jurisdiction in respect to approving or rejecting any application for Accreditation of the District or Divisional representatives.
- (ix) Any appeal against rejection of Accreditation Card shall be made to the review sub-committee of Provincial Accreditation Committee. The Sub-committee will include the senior journalist/ representative of PAPP and DI (PI).
- (x) Accreditation Card shall not be issued to journalists/ photographer working for any foreign media, film, fashion, in-house/ technical/ vocational journalists, monthly magazines/ journals, published by officials or semi-officials or state owned enterprises.
- (xi) Editor, while recommending the applications, must specify that the applicant is on the regular pay roll or on contract with Newspapers or News Agency or electronic Media Organization concerned.
- (xii) No Newspapers/ News Agency/ Electronic Media Organization will be entitled to have more than one accredited correspondent and one accredited photographer/ cameraman at the District Headquarters.
- However, Daily Newspapers/ News Agency/ Electronic Media Organization may have two or more accredited correspondents at the place of its publication/ transmission.
- (xiii) When a correspondent ceases to represent a Newspaper/ Agency or Electronic Media Network for which he was accredited, his accreditation will automatically end. It will be the responsibility of his employer to surrender his card to the Local Information Office. If he wishes to get himself accredited for another Newspaper/ Agency/ Electronic Media Organization he will have to apply a fresh and such application will again be considered by the Provincial/ Regional Accreditation Committee on merit.
- (xiv) The Correspondent/ Reporter/ Photographer/ Cameraman of a Newspaper/ News Agency or Electronic Media Network should fulfill the following condition to qualify for accreditation.
- (a) Any person who is attached to some newspapers but at the same time, runs a private news agency also will not be given separate accreditation cards. Provided that if a correspondent represents more than one newspapers or news agency, the names of those newspapers of news agencies will be specified on his accreditation card.
  - (b) He/ She must possess such academic attainments as would enable him to fulfill his application as a newspapers reporters.
- (xv) Entitlement to Accreditation will be as follows:

NEWS AGENCIES

i.	'A' class news agency	Six correspondents 3 Photographers
ii.	'B' class news agency	Four correspondents 2 Photographers
iii.	'C' class news agency	Two correspondent 1 Photographers
iv.	Foreign news agency	Two correspondents 1 Photographers
v.	State news agency	six correspondents 4 Photographers

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

vi.	'A' class news channel	six correspondents Four desk
vii.	'B' class news channel	Four shooters Four correspondents Two desk
viii.	'C' class news channel	Two shooters Two correspondents One Desk
ix.	FM Radio	One shooters 3 correspondents 3 Desk

PRINT MEDIA

ix.	National A newspaper	Six correspondents Photographers 3 Desk 3
x.	Regional B newspapers	Four correspondents Photographers 2 Desk 2
xi	Regional C newspapers	Two Correspondents Photographers 1 Desk 1
xii	Foreign newspapers	One correspondents Photographer 1 Desk 1
xiii	Weekly periodicals which maintain regular correspondents on full time employment basis	One correspondents One Photographer/ Cameraman Desk 1
xiv.	Feature services if they	One correspondent



can produce evidence of subscription and utilization on of their services at home and abroad.

One Photographer/ Cameraman

xv.

Illustrated periodicals

One photographer

(xvi) The status of a newspaper will be determined by the latest report of the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC). The classification of news agencies and newspapers will be as defined in the Wage Board Award.

Photographer and cameraman will have to fulfil more or less the same conditions as press correspondent for accreditation.

(xvii) The applicant will only be accredited for one year. After expiry of this period, the correspondents have to, submit their cards to the concerned Directorate of Information for renewal.

(xviii) Once an applicant is accredited, it will be within the jurisdiction of the concerned Director Information to extend the time limit without referring it to the Committee.

(xiv) Accreditation is personal and not transferable.

(xx) Accreditation does not confer any official or special status on a news media representative an merely recognized and identify, he/she as a representative of the media organization which employees him/her. It must be used only for journalistic purpose. The word "Accredited" to the government of the Sindh should not be used on Visiting Cards, Letterheads or any other literature.

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### **DISACCREDITATION**

An accredited Correspondent/Photographers/ Cameraman is Liable for disaccreditation on any of the following grounds

- (i) A representative will be liable to disaccredited if: He/She engages himself herself in any activity other than journalistic such as soliciting business or advertisement.
- (ii) Using information obtained by him for non-journalistic purpose.
- (iii) He/She published official secrets whose inviolability is accepted by law or general understanding.
- (iv) He/She behaves in an undignified or unprofessional manner in the course of his professional duties or has violated any of the rules contained herein.
- (v) He/She distorts official news or indulges in false malicious defamatory and slanderous reporting.
- (vi) The Newspaper or News-Agency for which he was working suspends its publications/operations or become defunct on its own or as a result of Government/court action.

- (vii) He/She ceases to represent the Newspaper or News-Agency for which he was accredited.
- (viii) He/She is convicted for an offence involving moral turpitude.

(xxii)

### **APPEAL AND REVIEW**

- i An appeal against the decision of Divisional Accreditation Committee shall lie with the Provincial Accreditation Committee consisting of senior journalist and representatives from various Journalists Associations and Director Information (PI) Karachi.
- ii Secretary Information may on his own accord, after giving notice to the concerned party, review and revise the decision of Accreditation Committees after hearing the concerned party if the Secretary Information is satisfied that the decision in question passed by Accreditation Committee is inconsistent with or in violation of these rules then he may set aside the same and pass such order as he may deem fit in accordance with these rules.

(xxiii)

### **DURATION OF THE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE AND CARDS**

- a) Term of accreditation committee shall be for a period of one year from January to December of each year.
- b) Accreditation Cards shall remain valid till 31<sup>st</sup> day of December of each respective year of their date of issue. After the expiry of one year, the accreditation card may be re-issued on production of a fresh letter of recommendation from the Editor of the Newspaper or the News-Agency/ Electronic Media concerned.
- c) On or before the expiry of each year, Director General Public Relations (DGPR) Information Department, Government of Sindh shall constitute new Accreditation Committee at Divisional/ Regional Directorates.

(xxiv)

### **PREVILEGES**

The Accredited correspondents/photographer will be granted all the facilities which may be accorded to them by the Government of Sindh from time to time viz;

- a) Access to Ministers, secretaries and spokesman of Government.
- b) Attendance at press conference etc.
- c) Entitlement to receive press release and publication of the Information Department.
- d) The right of Accreditation is personal and non-transferable but if as accredited photographer/correspondents/cameraman on account of unavoidable circumstances can not attend a press conference, the concerned Director of Information or his authorized officer may invite any other representative in consultation with the authority concerned.
- e) By accreditation, the Government merely recognizes that the accredited correspondent represents the Newspaper/ New-Agency & Electronic Media Network which employs him. This accreditation cards not confer any right of admission to function as well as restricted areas, where



separate invitation/innercardon passes are considered necessary. It does not confer any status on him/her and therefore, he/she should not have a signboard, letter-head or visiting card with the word; accredited to the Government of Sindh.

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#### SURRENDER OF CARD

- (i) If an accredited Correspondent/Photographer/ Cameraman ceased to represent a Newspaper or News-Agency for which he was accredited, his accreditation will end automatically.
- (ii) It will, however, be joint responsibility of the correspondent/photographer/ cameraman as well as of his editor concerned to surrender the card to the local Information Office.
- (iii) Failure to do so will debar him from accreditation in future and his substitute recommended by such Newspaper/News-Agency/ Electronic Media Organization concerned will be obliged to intimate the Information Office concerned if any of the correspondent/return the card issued to him.
- (iv) The Provincial Accreditation Committee shall be constituted by the Secretary, Information Department who shall also have the power to dissolve the same any time, as he may deem fit.
- (v) Notwithstanding any thing contained here-in-power/issuing, accreditation card to any free-lance journalist, writer, or intellectual who is contributing his stories, reports or articles regularly in one or more newspapers or periodicals of high repute and circulation.