

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
Ministry Of Information and Broadcasting
External Publicity Wing

GUIDELINES FOR THE FACILITATION OF THE FOREIGN MEDIA AND THEIR
ASSOCIATES WORKING IN PAKISTAN

In exercise of the powers vested to this Division under Rule 55 (3) of the Rules of Business 1973 i.e. to issue general and special orders for conducting its business, the Competent Authority is pleased to approve and issue the following Guidelines.

1. SHORT TITLE

These guidelines may be called “Foreign Media Facilitation Guidelines, – 2026.”

2. SCOPE

2.1 These guidelines shall apply to the Registration and Media Accreditation to be granted to the foreign media houses, organizations and outlets working in Pakistan and all eligible journalists, media owners, media professionals, sources, freelancers, sponsors, fixers, attached persons, assignees etc., of Pakistan working or contributing for them.

2.2 These guidelines shall be applicable to all foreign or international print, electronic and digital media including social media & web based platforms.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 In these guidelines unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context,

- a) “Journalist” means any person who is professionally or regularly engaged by a newspaper, magazine, news website of other news broadcast medium (whether online or offline), or any person with a substantial track record of freelancing for at least three years for any newspaper, magazine, news website or other news broadcast medium;¹
- b) “Media Professional” includes any other person regularly or professionally engaged in the collection, processing and dissemination of information to the public via any means of mass communication, including cameraperson and translators, publishers, broadcasters, printers and distributors;²

¹ https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1636461074_763.pdf

² https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1636461074_763.pdf

- c) "Media owner" means the owner of a media house or agency which collects and disseminates consumer's news, features, comments, photographs and graphics through any means of communications;³
- d) "Non-journalist" means a person who is employed mainly in a managerial or administrative capacity in a media organization, or is being employed there in a supervisory capacity, performs, either by the nature of the duties attached to his office or by reason of the powers vested in him, functions mainly of a managerial / administrative nature;⁴
- e) "Sources" mean any book, publication, person or organization that discloses information forming the substance/subject of work undertaken by any journalist, reporter or media professional;⁵
- f) "Newspaper" means any printed periodical work containing public news or comments on public news and includes such other class of printed periodical work as may, from time to time, be notified in this behalf by the Federal Government in the official Gazette;⁶
- g) "News agency" means an establishment which collects and disseminates to the print and electronic media, as well as other consumers news, features, comments, photographs and graphics through wire-service, facsimile or other means of communications;⁷
- h) "Publisher" means a person who undertakes or is responsible for, the publication of any book or newspaper or any printed material either on his behalf or on behalf of any other person, organization or company; ⁸
- i) "Foreign content" means a content that is produced under direct or indirect creative control of foreigners, foreign companies or foreign broadcasters;⁹
- j) "NOC / No Objection Certificate" mean a certificate required for official assignment especially for the work outside Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi.
- k) "Registration with EP Wing, means the formal or official process of enrolling and recording the details of a journalist, media professional, media organization, or related entity with the External Publicity Wing of the MOIB.
- l) "Accreditation by EP Wing" means the formal or official recognition granted by the EP Wing through the prescribed accreditation pass or card or certificate to a journalist, media professional, or media organization. Such accreditation authorizes the holder to access and cover official activities, including but not limited to press conferences, media briefings, press interactions, official events, and other engagements organized or facilitated by the EP Wing, in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

³ https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1636461074_763.pdf

⁴ https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1636461074_763.pdf

⁵ https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1636461074_763.pdf

⁶ https://www.moib.gov.pk/medialaws/NEWSPAPER_EMPLOYEES_CONDITIONS_Service.pdf

⁷ https://pid.gov.pk/uploads/media_laws/pcp_ordinance.pdf

⁸ https://pid.gov.pk/uploads/media_laws/pcp_ordinance.pdf

⁹ <https://www.moib.gov.pk/MediaLaws/coc2015.pdf#:~:text=1.%20Short%20title%20and%20commencement,2015.>

- m) "Contributor" means an individual who provides content or material, such as articles, photos, videos, or other media, to a publication or news outlet on a non-exclusive basis. A contributor works on a one-time or occasional basis, and their contributions are often paid per piece or assignment. They may or may not be formally contracted but are usually compensated for their work based on the terms agreed upon with the media organization.
- n) "Fixer" means a local individual who assists foreign journalists with logistical, operational, and / or on cultural matters during their news coverage and reporting in the country. The fixer helps facilitate communication, arranges interviews, ensures access to locations, provides translation services, and offers essential knowledge of local customs, laws, and security concerns. (foreign journalists hire "fixer")
- o) "Freelancer" means a professional journalist or a media person who operates independently, offering their services to various media outlets without being tied to one specific employer.
- p) "Retainer" means an agreement between a media organization and a journalist or media professional, where the journalist is hired on a long-term, ongoing basis for specific duties or services. A retainer is a fixed fee arrangement, meaning the journalist is paid a regular salary or fee to be available for a set number of hours or to produce a certain amount of content.
- q) "Sponsor" means an individual or organization based in the country that provides necessary support to foreign journalists, including assistance with legal documentation, visa applications, media accreditation, and compliance with local regulations. The sponsor serves as a responsible facilitating entity, ensuring that the foreign journalist adheres to the terms and conditions prescribed by the local authorities during their stay and news coverage in the country.
- r) "Stringer" means a person or a journalist who is hired on an ad-hoc or per-assignment basis by a media organization to cover specific stories, events, or locations. Stringers are local journalists who provide specialized reporting or coverage in regions or areas where the primary news organization does not have full-time staff.
- s) "Assignee" means a journalist or media professional formally designated by a media organization to perform specific duties, coverage, or assignments for a defined period or purpose, including correspondence, reporting, production, or editorial functions.
- t) "Attached" means the formal association of a journalist or media professional with a specific media organization, office, mission, or bureau for administrative, professional, or coordination purposes, without necessarily implying permanent employment.

4. GENERAL TERMS OF REGISTRATION OF JOURNALISTS & MEDIA HOUSES

4.1. Registration with EP Wing, MoIB, shall be mandatory for all journalists working with international or foreign media outlets, including digital, print, electronic, and social media/news platforms, through the designated portal (www.dml.nimar.pk). Such registration shall be a prerequisite for engaging with foreign media.

4.2 All journalists residing within Pakistan, contributing to foreign media in any capacity i.e. regular, freelancer, contributory, stringer, retainer, sponsor, fixer, assignee, attached etc. shall register themselves on the portal for their mandatory registration with EP Wing.

4.3 All Pakistani journalists residing abroad, contributing to foreign media and seeking registration must submit their application through the EP Wing portal and concurrently forward their case through the nearest Press Attaché, Counsellor, Minister posted in Pakistan Missions, Consulates, High Commissions, or Embassies. (www.epwing.gov.pk & www.mofa.gov.pk)

4.4. All companies, entities, production houses, etc., operating in Pakistan for the purpose of facilitating foreign media in any capacity shall be required to register with the EP Wing. Such registration shall be mandatory, in addition to compliance with all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations governing the registration and operation of media companies in Pakistan.

4.5. All non-journalists residing in Pakistan rendering services to foreign media shall register themselves on the portal for their mandatory registration with EP Wing

4.6. Registration shall not confer any official status and only establishes professional recognition.

4.7. Registration shall be considered only if supported by a recommendation from the head of the organization.

5. GENERAL TERMS OF PRESS ACCREDITATION

5.1 After registration, all journalists who intend to avail Press Accreditation Cards (Accreditation Cards) shall submit their request via EP Wing portal with all the required documents.

5.2 All those already registered seeking Press Accreditation Card shall submit the recommendation letter duly verified by their respective heads of the media organizations.

- 5.3 All Pakistani journalists residing abroad, contributing to foreign media and seeking accreditation must submit their application through the EP Wing portal and concurrently forward their case through the nearest Press Attaché /Counsellor/Minister posted in Pakistan Missions, Consulates, High Commissions, or Embassies.
- 5.4 This card shall not qualify the holder as an official representative of the Government of Pakistan, nor shall it authorize the use of the phrase “Accredited to the Government of Pakistan” on any personal or public profile.
- 5.5 EP Wing’s Accreditation card once issued cannot be used for the visa purposes until unless recommended by this Ministry through Diplomatic channel.
- 5.6 Accreditation shall be of two types, namely:-
- a) Permanent Accreditation shall be granted on an annual basis; and
 - b) Visiting journalists shall apply for a temporary accreditation card valid for a period not exceeding three months.
- 5.7 All Accredited journalists shall be issued an EP Wing’s unique Accreditation Card and EP Wing shall facilitate them to have access to all the official media events and government offices, premises. They shall be bound to produce that card on demand.
- 5.8 Accreditation cards must be surrendered upon change of category or organization as well as upon the completion of the accreditation tenure.

6. PROCEDURE FOR GRANT OF REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION

- 6.1 Registration and Accreditation Portal shall be accessible on this link <http://registration.epwing.gov.pk/>
- 6.2 Applications shall be submitted through the EP Wing’s Online Registration and accreditation portal, along with prescribed documents.
- 6.4 After the submission of the application, Registration may be approved followed by process of Accreditation Card.
- 6.5 MOIB’s, EP Wing may seek additional information/documents, if and when required.

7. SUSPENSION OR WITHDRAWAL OF PRESS ACCREDITATION or REGISTRATION:

- 7.1 Press accreditation or registration may be suspended or withdrawn of the registered or accredited person, when,-
- a) misuse of registration and accreditation is reported;
 - b) involved in a cognizable offence;
 - c) documents is reported to be false or forged at any stage;

- d) fails to inform or intimate EP Wing about disassociation with organization within seven days;
- e) fails to notify EP Wing within seven days of organizational change;
- f) EP Wing deems appropriate at any stage;
- g) acts against the ideology, sovereignty, security, or public order of Pakistan; and
- h) misuses journalist visa or NOC

8. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 8.1 EP Wing reserves the right to approve or reject any Accreditation application. The journalists can appeal to the Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in such cases.
- 8.2 Registered and Accredited journalists shall inform the EP Wing if they change the organization or disassociate from the organization within seven working days.
- 8.3 All foreign/international media personnel (in accordance with Guideline 4.2) already accredited or registered with EP Wing shall be required a mandatory NOC from EP Wing for movement to any other city (except Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi) in case they are going to produce a news content, story, video, film, documentary or social media content for their official use.
- 8.4 For leisure trips to Abbottabad and Murree, a NOC may be granted by the EP Wing upon the request of the journalist, within three working days.
- 8.5 EP Wing will only issue QR enabled PVC cards to the journalists, other kinds of cards will not be accepted or issued.