

General rules for certain organized activities and events involving crowds

These rules apply for activities occurring within or affecting Natura 2000 sites as per Annex 1, for activities of more than 25 persons. A prior notification of the activity shall be submitted to ERA at least 15 days before the event on nature.permitting@era.org.mt with the details of the checklist in Annex 2.

Provided that on a case by case basis the ERA may request a formal Environmental Permit prior to the activity occurring or otherwise impose additional conditions including the provision of an appropriate bank guarantee to ensure adherence with conditions. Applications are to be submitted through the online ERIS portal.

The below conditions are applicable for gathering events such as **music concerts, parties, barbecues, weddings, and sport events**. It is the responsibility of the organizer to ensure that all precautions and measures of good practices are taken at all times to avoid environmental damage including through crowd control.

1. All the proposed facilities and ancillary setups shall be temporary and entirely reversible, and without requiring any physical modifications to the site or its terrain.
2. Lighting shall be limited and shall be directed only towards the area of the activity, downward facing and full cut-off type. Uplighters and lighting of natural habitats, marine environment, and cliffs is prohibited. The activity shall not be a source of light pollution, especially at night and shall also include all necessary measures to pre-empt adverse impact on the surrounding natural, rural and coastal environment. To this effect:
 - a. lighting shall be strictly limited to within the activity site, and its height and orientation shall be designed in a manner that does not cause illumination beyond the developed site;
 - b. there shall be no lighting of ancillary access roads, tracks and paths or other lighting beyond the site boundary;
 - c. all exterior lighting installed on site shall be horizontally aligned, downward-pointing, fully-shielded and full cut-off. No luminaire globes, uplighters and/or high-level floodlighting are allowed; and
 - d. lighting shall be of low-intensity 'warm light' colour with a temperature not exceeding 3000K.
3. All reasonable measures should be taken not to generate excessive noise. As a guideline, any sound generated shall not exceed 65dBA as measured at 200m from the peripheral area of the event. Any sound emitted shall be directed towards the activity.
4. All structures and facilities, including any ancillary services, shall be removed within not more than 24 hours of the activity.

All works related to site preparation for the event, as well as those for site cleaning following the event, shall be carried out carefully and all necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent damage to the surrounding environment.

To this effect rubbish disposal facilities and sanitary facilities (incl. mobile toilets) shall be provided and managed by the organisers. The organiser is responsible for the separate collection and disposal of any litter, refuse or waste generated during the activity.

5. Access to and from the site at all stages shall only utilise existing roads and tracks, and without entailing any widening, extension or other alteration thereto. Off-roading is prohibited including for parking of vehicles.
6. Activity shall not cause directly or indirectly release of plastic such as balloons, confetti or other forms of single use plastic into the environment.
7. No fireworks are allowed unless specifically allowed by the Authority.

No fires are to be lit directly on the sand, soil or rock (i.e. any fire must be safely contained within a metal structure). No fires are to be lit within vegetated areas or within 5m from the spread of branches of existing trees and shrubs. Ash from barbecues shall be disposed of in appropriate metal containers or otherwise taken off site for disposal.

All barbecues are to use appropriate equipment to ensure that the heat source, fuel, ash and other foreseeable source of pollution or environmental hazard are not in direct contact with the ground.

8. Any generators and related fuel tanks shall be located within the area of the event. Generators shall be the silent inverter type.

Precautions shall be taken against any spillages.

9. The organiser is responsible for management of the crowd and shall implement all necessary crowd control measures including cordoning of the site, use of wardens, etc. The organiser is liable for any environmental damage which may take place as a result of the activity.
10. This clearance relates only to the event being notified.

When the activity is not exempted through a general binding rule (and thus requires an ad hoc permit), ERA may impose environmental monitoring at the applicant's expense. Where such monitoring is undertaken by the Authority, the applicable charge shall be €60 per hour per person.

Annex 1: List of sites outside SAC which require notification

Northern and eastern coast of Gozo including for example Hondoq ir-Rummien, Xwejni and Qbajjar, Daħlet Qorrot, Ramla l- Ħamra, Red Tower area

In case of difficulty of locations not listed above, contact ERA on nature.permitting@era.org.mt

Annex 2: Details to be submitted in notification

Name of Organiser _____ Name of Company _____

Contact Person _____ Contact number _____

Name of event _____

Location (provide map with area marked) _____ Date/s of event _____ Times _____

Number of people _____

Type of event (tick) Barbecue Music concert Party Wedding
 Sport event (specify) _____ Other (specify) _____

Activities (tick) Fire Lighting Sound system Fireworks
 Stage Tent Tables and chairs Portable toilets
 Other (pls specify) _____

Describe the event and its purpose:

