



བུ་ཁྱེད་ལུ་ལས་ཁུངས་། བཅོ་ཁྲིའི་ལས་དང་ལུ་གཡོག་ལྷན་ཁག།  
**DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM**  
**Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment**

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**INTERNAL NOTIFICATION**

**Interim tourist-guide ratio**

Since the re-opening of tourism in the country from September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022, the Department has validated a total of 1,765 tour guides. However, there is still a large number of tourist guides who have yet to apply for validation. It is also possible that some of the tour guides who have been validated are currently not active, leading to artificial shortage of tour guides.

To determine the actual number of active tour guides in the country and confirm their availability for providing guiding services, the Department will soon be conducting a survey in collaboration with the GAB.

Meanwhile, the Department is temporarily changing the guide:tourist ratio requirement to 1:22. This will allow a guide to manage a maximum of 22 tourists and this is applicable to all certified and validated tour guides. The tourists under the same guide should be either part of the same group or coming through the same service providers/ground handlers. This interim arrangement will come into effect immediately and will remain in place until further notice.

This interim arrangement is being pursued based on the feedbacks received from the Pedestrian Terminal, Phuntsholing and the Guide Association of Bhutan (GAB).

**Management**  
**Department of Tourism**

Cc:

- Regional Director, Region Office, DoI, Phuntsholing, Gelephu and Samdrupjongkhar
- OIC, RBP, Pedestrian Terminal, Phuntsholing with request to inform your team in Gelephu and Samdrupjongkhar,
- TIOs, DOT, Pedestrian Terminal, Phuntsholing with request to inform your team in Gelephu and Samdrupjongkhar,
- GMS, GAB, Pedestrian Terminal, Phuntsholing with request to inform your team in Gelephu and Samdrupjongkhar,
- ABTO, GAB, HRAB, Thimphu.
- Divisions in DOT – to inform all concerned

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