

Administrative Resolution No. (7) of 2020

**Prescribing the Requirements for Printing and Circulating Quran Copies
and Religious Publications in the Emirate of Dubai¹**

The Director General of the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department,

After perusal of:

Law No. (2) of 2011 Concerning the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department;

Law No. (8) of 2018 Concerning Management of the Government of Dubai Human Resources;

Executive Council Resolution No. (25) of 2013 Concerning Mosques and Religious Activities in the Emirate of Dubai;

Executive Council Resolution No. (15) of 2015 Approving the Organisational Structure of the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department; and

Administrative Resolution No. (38) of 2018 Concerning the Bylaw on the Rules and Standards for Reviewing and Circulating Religious Publications,

Does hereby issue this Resolution.

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¹Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict, the Arabic text will prevail.

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Definitions

Article (1)

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Resolution, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

UAE:	The United Arab Emirates.
Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
IACAD:	The Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department.
Quran Copy:	Any print, audio, or visual content that includes parts of or the entire Bounteous Quran.
Religious Publications:	Any scientific, literary, or artistic material related to the religion of Islam, whether in print, audio, or visual format.
Circulation:	The sale, distribution, display, or publication of the Quran Copies or Religious Publications, or any other act that makes them accessible to a number of individuals.
Permit:	A document issued by the IACAD authorising the printing or Circulation by an applicant of Quran Copies or Religious Publications in the Emirate.

Scope of Application

Article (2)

The provisions of this Resolution will apply to the Quran Copies and Religious Publications intended for printing or Circulation in the Emirate.

Prohibition

Article (3)

No individual or entity may engage in the printing or Circulation of Quran Copies or Religious Publications in the Emirate without first satisfying the requirements stipulated in this Resolution and obtaining a Permit.

Requirements for Issuing Permits for Printing and Circulating Quran Copies

Article (4)

A Permit for the printing and Circulation of a Quran Copy or any part thereof will be issued subject to the following:

1. The required approvals of the Quran Copy must be obtained from any of the Islamic scholarly councils/boards recognised within or outside of the UAE.
2. The Quran Copy must be inscribed in the Uthmani script, using the recognised Arabic diacritics.
3. The text of the Quran must be correct in terms of words, letters, form, recitation marks such as, pauses, and prostration (*sajda*) marks.
4. The Quran Copy must be free from technical production errors and typos.
5. The paper and cover quality must be appropriate for the sanctity of the Quran Copy.
6. The page numbers of the Quran Copy must be sequential and correct.
7. The titles of the chapters, the numbers of verses, the part marks, and other signs must be correct.

Requirements for Issuing Permits for Printing, and Circulating Religious Publications

Article (5)

A Permit for printing and Circulation of a Religious Publication will be issued subject to the following:

1. It must not contain any words, phrases, speeches, or drawings suggesting any criticism or disparage of Their Highnesses the UAE President, Vice President, or Members of the Ruling Family; or any of the UAE iconic figures.
2. It must not include any words, phrases, speeches, or drawings that are offensive to the system of government in the UAE or any other friendly state; or include any content that may instigate sedition or disturb the cordial relations between the UAE and the Arab, Islamic, or other friendly countries.
3. It must not include any words, phrases, speeches, or drawings that relate to politics; instigate hatred or sectarian, racial, religious, or ethnic conflicts; or compromise the UAE state security, public order, or morality; and not cite, quote, or paraphrase extremist intellectual, scholarly, or political writings or opinions.
4. It must not include any words, phrases, speeches, or drawings that contradict the established precepts of Islam, or the consensus of Islamic Jurists.
5. It must not contain any words, phrases, speeches, or drawings that are offensive to the honourable Prophet Muhammad, his family, God's Messengers and Prophets, Islam, or other heavenly revealed religions; to the Bounteous Quran; to the Prophet Muhammad's Sayings (Hadith) and the Prophetic Tradition (*Sunnah*); to Prophet Muhammad's Noble Companions; to Prophet Muhammad's Wives; to the Leading Islamic Jurists and Scholars; or to the Righteous Predecessors; and must not depict, either by drawings or pictures, any of God's Messengers and Prophets or Prophet Muhammad's Noble Companions.

6. It must not include any words, phrases, speeches, or drawings that may be offensive to the social customs and traditions of the UAE, defamatory of Arabs and Muslims, or making false allegations against their heritage and civilisation.
7. It must not include any words, phrases, speeches, or drawings that may incite to committing crimes, or to hatred and division among members of the community; or violate public morals in the UAE.
8. It must not include any words, phrases, speeches, or drawings that may instigate sedition, sectarianism, or racism; flare up emotions; constitute an offence against, or ridicule of, the constituent groups of society, or their beliefs; or discriminate among those groups on the basis of faith, doctrine, school of Islamic jurisprudence, creed, sect, faction, race, skin colour, or national origin.
9. It must not include any opinions of obscure researchers or discuss them for the purpose of refuting the opinions of Islamic jurisprudential councils or widely recognised Islamic scholars.
10. It must be compliant with the publications- and copyright-related legislation in force in the UAE.

Procedures for Issuing Permits

Article (6)

In issuing a Permit, the following procedures will apply:

1. An application for Permit will be submitted to the IACAD on the form prescribed by it for this purpose, supported by the required information and documents, particularly:
 - a. three (3) of the Quran Copies or the Religious Publication copies intended for printing or Circulation;
 - b. the number of the Quran Copies or Religious Publication copies to be printed or circulated;and

- c. the places where the Quran Copies and Religious Publications will be circulated.
2. The IACAD will consider the application, and verify that it meets all the required conditions and it is accompanied by all required documents. For this purpose, the IACAD may conduct field visits and request any additional documents it deems necessary.
3. The IACAD will issue a decision on the Permit application within thirty (30) days from the date of its submission. The application will be deemed rejected if no decision is issued by the IACAD within this period.
4. Where the application is approved, the IACAD will issue the applicant with the Permit.

Religious Publications Authored and Prepared by IACAD Employees or Contracted Persons

Article (7)

In addition to the requirements stipulated in Article (5) of this Resolution, a Religious Publication that is authored, prepared, or published by an IACAD Employee or a researcher or other person contracted by the IACAD must meet the following requirements:

1. It may not include the name of the researcher or author, and not include criticism of the specialised opinions and statement of other authors and writers.
2. It may not promote or advertise any public or private entity by mentioning its name or the names of its employees.
3. The proper academic method must be adopted in quoting, documenting, summarising, and paraphrasing.
4. The academic material may not be changed, by way of deletion or addition, after linguistic revision or technical production, without obtaining the relevant prior approval of the IACAD.
5. It may not include any maps, pictures, or drawings without obtaining the approval of the competent entities in the UAE. This does not apply to charts and tables prepared by the author.

6. The title of the Religious Publication may not be changed or modified without first obtaining the relevant approval of the IACAD.

Review and Censorship

Article (8)

- a. For the purposes of this Resolution, the IACAD will have the duty to review and censor the content of the Quran Copies and Religious Publications, and issue the Permits required for printing and Circulation of the same, in accordance with the requirements and procedures stipulated in this Resolution.
- b. The IACAD may withdraw the Quran Copies and Religious Publications printed and circulated in the Emirate in violation of the provisions of this Resolution.

Consistency with Legislation in Force

Article (9)

The provisions of this Resolution will apply without prejudice to the powers vested in competent entities, including the National Media Council, in respect of the supervision, censorship, audit, and approval of print material and publication works, in accordance with the legislation in force in the UAE.

Issuing Implementing Instructions

Article (10)

The Executive Director of the Islamic Affairs Sector will issue the instructions required for the implementation of the provisions of this Resolution.

Repeals

Article (11)

The above-mentioned Administrative Resolution No. (38) of 2018 is hereby repealed. Any provision in any other administrative resolution will also be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Resolution.

Publication and Commencement

Article (12)

This Resolution will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force on the day on which it is published.

Dr. Hamad Al Sheikh Ahmed Hamad Al Shaibani

Director General

Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department

Issued in Dubai on 6 January 2020

Corresponding to 11 Jumada al-Ula 1441 A.H.