

Transfer of Commissions between Periti – Version 2

The Council of the Kamra tal-Periti hereby gives notice to all members of the profession of this Directive governing the transfer of commissions, or engagements to provide professional services, from one perit (or partnership of periti) to another.

This Directive outlines the processes to be followed in such cases, as well as the relative rights and obligations of the periti involved, and matters relating to liability.

Directives DIR 04/09, DIR 03/19 and Circular CIR 02/09 are being hereby repealed.

1. Processes

1.1. When a development application is still ongoing

When a commission is terminated **during the processing of a planning application**, the outgoing perit shall, in addition to the client and the Kamra, also notify the Planning Authority via eApps, requesting immediate suspension of the planning application process in terms of S.L. 552.13 reg 12 (1) to provide sufficient time for:

- the client to identify another perit;
- the outgoing and incoming periti (or partnership/s of periti) to satisfy their respective obligations as set out in this Directive;
- the compilation and submission of any forms that may be prescribed by the Planning Authority.

1.2. When works are underway

When a commission is terminated **after construction works have commenced**, the outgoing perit shall, in addition to the client, also notify the Kamra tal-Periti, the Building & Construction Agency¹, the Planning Authority², and the Commissioner of Police³, as well as the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage⁴, where applicable, to ensure that no works proceed without the general supervision of a perit, and the necessary forms as may be prescribed by the Building & Construction Authority, Planning Authority, and any other relevant statutory bodies, are formally filed⁵.

¹ Notification to the BCA can be effected via eApps (Avoidance of Damage tab) or via email info@bca.org.mt

² Notification to the PA can be effected via eApps (Submit Correspondence tab)

³ Notification to the Commissioner of Police can be effected via email on pulizija@gov.mt

⁴ Notification to the SCH can be effected via email on monitoring.sch@gov.mt

⁵ The PA's Change of Perit form is to be submitted by the outgoing perit, while the BCA's Change of Responsibility form is to be submitted by the incoming perit.

1.3. In all other cases

In all other cases where the statutory processes described above do not apply, the provisions in Sections 2 and 3 only shall be applicable.

2. Rights & Obligations of the Outgoing Perit

2.1. Right to refuse release

A perit can refuse to release a commission in the following circumstances:

- a) if the termination is being initiated by the client in cases where the perit has issued legitimate instructions to safeguard public safety, structural integrity of buildings, the protection of cultural heritage and the environment, compliance with planning permit conditions, and/or adherence with laws, regulations, directives and codes.

Provided that if any of the above circumstances exist, the perit shall immediately notify the Kamra providing details of such circumstances.

Provided further that if no such circumstances exist, the perit shall not withhold the release of his commission unless otherwise authorised by the Council of the Kamra tal-Periti.

2.2. Obligation to notify

The outgoing perit shall in all circumstances, follow the processes set out in section 1 of this directive, as applicable.

Provided further that if the commission is being terminated by the outgoing perit, s/he shall keep a record of the relative written notification to the client of the termination.

2.3. Obligation to provide handover

Upon being notified in writing by the incoming perit that s/he was engaged by the client to take over the commission, the outgoing perit shall provide the incoming perit a full handover within a reasonable amount of time, which handover shall include information about the design, site conditions, site survey, the client brief governing the services s/he had hitherto provided, photographs of the works, instructions and reports about the works, communication with the various authorities until the time the original perit was still entrusted with the commission, and any other relevant information necessary to safeguard public safety, structural integrity of buildings, the protection of cultural heritage and the environment, compliance with planning permit conditions, and/or adherence with laws, regulations, directives and codes, as may be applicable depending on the nature of the commission.

Provided that such handover excludes the transfer of intellectual property belonging to the original perit, including any digital information such as CAD drawings, 3D models, and other

similar data, unless agreed to by the outgoing perit at his/her discretion or as may have agreed in a prior written agreement between the outgoing perit and the client.

Provided further that the outgoing perit may request payment for the transfer of his/her intellectual property, unless otherwise specified in a written agreement between the original perit and the client.

Provided further that the outgoing perit may request additional remuneration and/or termination fees from the client to provide a handover as long as this is already provided for in the written agreement.

3. Rights & Obligations of the Incoming Perit

3.1. Obligation to notify

Upon being approached by the client to take over the commission from another perit, the incoming perit shall notify in writing the outgoing perit of this requesting the initiation of the handover process.

3.2. Obligation to refrain from taking over a commission

A perit shall refrain from accepting to take over a commission originally commenced by another perit in the following circumstances:

- a) If the original perit is being substituted for issuing legitimate instructions to a contactor to safeguard public safety, structural integrity of buildings, the protection of cultural heritage and the environment, compliance with planning permit conditions, and/or adherence with laws, regulations, directives and codes.
- b) If the incoming perit has not notified the original perit in writing and requested a comprehensive handover from the outgoing perit.

In addition to the above, the incoming perit shall seek written confirmation from the outgoing perit that all fees due up to the date of handover have been settled by the client. In the event that dues are still outstanding, the incoming perit shall only proceed with the commission upon written confirmation from the outgoing perit that formal legal action has been lodged against the client for the settlement of fees, provided that the outgoing perit shall institute such action no later than 30 days from notification of formal termination by the client, and provided further that the incoming perit may proceed with the commission should the outgoing perit not institute such action within the stipulated time frame.

The Council of the Kamra tal-Periti shall consider any actions by a perit to take over the commission of another perit before resolving such disputes as constituting “supplanting” in terms of Provision 4 of the Code of Professional Conduct.

4. Professional Liability when transferring commissions

- 4.1. Under no circumstance shall a transfer of a commission constitute the transfer of liabilities between periti (or partnerships of periti).
- 4.2. The outgoing perit shall remain liable for the professional services s/he has completed until the date of the transfer becomes effective.
- 4.3. The incoming perit shall be liable for the professional services s/he provides from the date the transfer becomes effective onwards.
- 4.4. The handover information should be sufficiently detailed to clearly demarcate the liabilities of both outgoing and incoming periti.

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