

Minimum Standards Assessments

During 2018 staff from the Tourism Division will visit tourism accommodation establishments all over Solomon Islands and assess them against the Minimum Standards criteria. The assessment will be an opportunity for establishments to get advice on how to improve services and facilities.

Accommodation owners will be contacted well in advance of the assessment. This will give them time to prepare for the upcoming assessment.



Towards a stronger Tourism sector

Many countries have experienced a stronger tourism sector as a result of implementing Minimum Standards. The Program is aiming for the following:

- Solomon Islands will offer quality products and services that are of internationally recognized standards.
- There will be consistency in quality of tourism products and services
- More tourism products are marketable to international visitors.
- SI tourism products to become competitive those of our neighbouring countries.

Improved standards leads to improved visitor satisfaction. This will eventually result in increasing visitors arrivals and sales of tourism products and services.



MINIMUM STANDARDS & CLASSIFICATION FOR TOURISM ACCOMODATION



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Introduction

Tourism in Solomon Islands has great potential, but remains relatively small. Visitor numbers are on the increase but are still much lower than that of neighbouring countries.

One important reason for this is the lack of quality control and standards in the tourism industry, particularly when it comes to tourism accommodation. This lack of standards makes it difficult to market and sell SI accommodation to tourists

Following internationally acceptable quality standards is vital for successful tourism development in our country.



Minimum Standards

Minimum Standards is a system used worldwide by governments and tourism industry organizations to ensure that the tourism sector maintains recognized quality standards.

The Minimum Standards contains a list of criteria's that should be in place at all tourism accommodation establishments. The Standards cover important areas involved in the operation of a tourist accommodation establishment.



Classification

Different types of accommodation have different levels of standards. For example the standards of a Hotel should be higher than that of a Guest-house. For this reason the criteria's for Hotels are more stringent than that of budget type accommodation.

Classification is the process where accommodation is broken down into categories, such as Hotel, Resort, Motel, etc. A lot of tourism accommodation in Solomon Islands is mislabelled which causes confusion for tourists. Mislabelling gives our tourism a bad reputation and Classification is a tool that can be used to solve this problem.

Each accommodation category has certain key features and caters for a specific type of traveller. The accommodation categories are appropriate for the region and covers all current types of accommodation in Solomon Islands:

- **Hotel**
- **Resort**
- **Motel**
- **Budget Accommodation**
- **Tourist Bungalow**
- **Ecolodge**
- **Serviced Apartment**
- **Homestay**

Each accommodation category has its own Minimum Standards criteria reflecting the differences in characteristics. At the beginning of the program, accommodation owners will be asked to choose a category for their property. Tourism Division staff will be available to assist with this.

