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དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།
CENTRAL COVID-19 TASK FORCE
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN



CC19TF/RGoB/20

Date. August 22, 2020

The Chief,
Royal Bhutan Police,
Head Quarter,
Thimphu.

Subject: Handing over of vehicle movement permit stickers and individual permit cards

Sir,

The ICT, Media and Transport (ICTMT) Desk under Central Covid-19 Task Force (CC19TF), the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) and the Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) held a tripartite meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Foreign Minister on 21st August 2020 to discuss the way forward on the issuance of vehicle movement permit and individual permit cards to reduce vehicles on the road. It is noted that the stickers/cards distributed to Dzongkhag/Thromde and Incident Commanders following the immediate announcement of the lockdown on 11th August, 2020 by the Department of Disaster Management was done without providing any SOP or Guideline on its usage. In the absence of clarity, several agencies had also started printing and issuing their own stickers resulting in confusion and difficulties for the enforcement agency (RBP) in the field.

In this regard, we would like to convey the decision arrived at as follows for clarity and uniformity in the implementation of the movement stickers:

1. The Transport Unit of the ICT, Media and Transport Desk of the Central Covid-19 Task Force will hand over the responsibility of issuance of stickers for vehicle movement permit and individual permit cards during the Lockdown to the RBP.



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2. The RBP will start issuing the vehicle movement permit and individual permit cards (Stickers) as per the SOP approved by the CC19TF for the ICT, Media and Transport Desk of the Central Covid19 Task Force with immediate effect.
3. The respective Dzongkhag and Thromde Incident Commander shall hand over the sticker inventory to the respective SSP/SP/OC of the Dzongkhag with immediate effect.
4. The RBP shall hence be responsible for managing the sticker inventory and oversee the responsibility for printing, distribution, issuance, and accounting of the inventory.
5. To enable the implementation and monitoring responsibility by RBP, a **GUIDELINE** on the usage of the Stickers developed as per the SOP by the Transport Unit of the ICTMT Desk is annexed for reference.
6. The sticker/card inventory balance with the Transport Unit of the ICTMT desk will be handed over to the RBP with the details of the inventory immediately to enable the transfer of the responsibility.
7. The CC19TF will issue relevant notification and guideline on issuance of sticker and permit card for uniform implementation.
8. No agency shall be permitted to print and issue stickers which do not conform to the specifications adopted by the CC19TF.

This letter is issued in supersession to the earlier letter no. CC19TF/RGoB/16 dt. 19th August 2020 issued by the Chairperson of the CC19TF on the same subject. All concerned are notified to kindly comply with the directives laid down herein.

Yours Sincerely,

(Sangay Duba)

Chairperson



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Copy to;

1. Chairperson, NCTF, Thimphu.
2. The Focal Officer, Security Desk, CC19TF, Thimphu for necessary action.
3. Dzongkhag Incident Commander, all Dzongkhags for necessary action..
4. Thromde Incident Commander, all Thromdes for necessary action.
5. The Director General, DDM, Thimphu.
6. SP, Traffic Division, RBP, Thimphu for necessary action.

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Guideline for Authorization for Movement of individuals and Vehicle Movement Authorization during Lockdown

1. Background:

The Surface Transportation Unit under ICT, Media and Transportation (ICTMT) desk under the Central Covid-19 Task Force is responsible for establishing clear responsibilities and coordination mechanisms for the Central Region with oversight on Eastern and Southern Region TF to provide surface transportation services during lockdown in the country. This responsibility constitutes vehicle inventory management and deployment, issuance of movement permit for vehicles, drivers and passengers, and any other activity that is necessary to observe proper lockdown protocols.

The uniform implementation of vehicle movement and individuals during lockdown has been standardized with issuance of SOP and guideline. Movement of vehicles during lockdown is authorized through usage of Stickers titled *Vehicle Movement Authorization*, and permit cards for individuals which is titled as *Authorization of Movement*. The Stickers are colour coded for different purposes as given in the table below.

2. Authorization:

The standardization and usage of the stickers have been authorized by the NCTF through the CC19TF to limit the number of vehicles on the road and individuals outside home during lockdown with exception for those on active duty and essential service providers only. Any other authorization for movement shall be considered on a case by case basis by the respective SSP/SP/OC of RBP in the Dzongkhags.

3. Responsibilities of Issuing Authority:

- a. The permit stickers shall be valid for a specific duration only depending on the nature of the emergency situation as per the validity reflected in the sticker.
- b. The identified vehicles for approved movement shall display the permit card issued by the RBP on the dashboard to designate itself on COVID-19 duty.
- c. The RBP shall collaborate with the relevant Transport Desks/Unit and the respective Dzogkhags and Thromdes with regard to the requirement of vehicles for deployment and issue stickers accordingly.
- d. The Dzongkhags and Thromdes shall inform the Transportation Desks/Unit as and when the transportation service is required, and the Desk/Unit accordingly shall deploy the identified vehicles / drivers for duty with the relevant sticker.

- e. To enable coordination, the Transport Desk/Unit of the Incident Command (Regional, Dzongkhag and Thromde) and the RBP unit shall sit at the same desks to coordinate the deployment of vehicles/drivers and issuance of stickers by RBP.
- f. The RBP unit shall allow the movement of private vehicles only in the event of emergencies such as death, medical emergency, critical domestic issues, special official assignments and delivery of essential services which is cleared and approved by the respective Incident Command.
- g. Discuss and strategize the intra-district and inter-district movement of vehicles in consultation with the relevant agencies and pass the instruction to respective regional and base transport offices.
- h. The unit shall enable critical transport related information sharing on the national COVID-19 dashboard and focal appointment to update the data.
- i. RSTA shall coordinate with RBP to facilitate the movement of approved vehicles by sharing the list of details of vehicle drivers and passengers with RBP through the use of online mobile apps.

4. Color code and validity:

The sticker and cards are designed with 5 different colors for different purposes as detailed below;

Sl. no.	Sticker/card color	Purpose	Validity	Remarks
1	Red	Death	Max. of 10 days	A vehicle sticker with a red sticker shall not be re-deployed for any other purpose.
2	Blue	Medical emergency	Depending on the nature of emergency	If required, validity shall be renewed accordingly.
3	Green	Critical domestic issues	Max. of 10 days or single use	If required, validity shall be renewed accordingly.
4	Shaded white (gray)	Special official assignment	Depending on the nature of task/assignment	If required, validity shall be renewed accordingly.
5	Light blue	Delivery of essential items/services	Max. of 10 days	If required, validity shall be renewed accordingly.

9

5. Compliance Requirement for Issuing Stickers:

While issuing the stickers, the following should be followed;

- a. Clearly indicate the purpose, route/place, time and date permitted to move;
- b. Open ended permits for drivers, individuals and vehicles shall not be issued.
- c. Stickers with no date or time limit shall be issued only to those on active Covid19 duty personnel and responders only.
- d. RBP shall inspect the validity and place of movement for vehicles plying on roads.
- e. While enforcing the movement during lockdown, RBP personnel shall inspect and confiscate all non valid stickers.
- f. All other stickers shall be issued in a time bound manner to minimize movement.
- g. Stock of sticker inventory shall be maintained and managed by the respective RBP unit and if required shall be accounted for. This shall include printing of fresh batch of stickers and distribution thereof.
- h. The expenditure on printing of stickers and cards shall be borne by the Department of Disaster Management.
- i. Misuse of the stickers shall be dealt in accordance with the law by the RBP.
- j. The Security Desk, CC19TF shall instruct all RBP units for enforcement in the field and ensure that the movement authorization granted by the sticker is not misused for domestic or other personal use and errands.

6. Monitoring of issuance of sticker and cards by the Regional Task Force

Any implementation issues in the field shall be raised to the focal officer of the respective Security Desk of the Regional Task Force (i.e. Central, Southern and Eastern Covid-19 Task Force).

7. Advocacy:

Nationwide advocacy regarding the usage of stickers for movement of vehicles and individuals will be carried out by the media desk unit of CC19TF and the RBP HQ.
