REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

CONSOLIDATION OF THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH TEXTS OF THE LAWS OF VANUATU ACT [CAP 295]

Approval of the English Text of the Citizenship (Contribution Program) Regulation Consolidation Edition 2024
Order No. 68 of 2024

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by subsection 9(1) of the Consolidation of the French and English Texts of the Laws of Vanuatu Act [CAP 295], I, the Honourable JOHN AMOS VACHER, Minister of Justice and Community Services, make the following Order:

1 Approval of the English Text of the Citizenship (Contribution Program) Regulation Consolidation Edition 2024

The English Text of the Citizenship (Contribution Program) Regulation Consolidation Edition 2024 is approved.

2 Appointed day

The appointed day for the coming into operation of the Citizenship (Contribution Program) Regulation Consolidation Edition 2024 is the day on which this Order is made.

3 Commencement

This Order commences on the day on which it is made.

Made at Port Vila this 17th **day of** April**, 2024.**

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU Ministry of Justice & Community Services MINISTER Ministère de la Justice et services du Communauté REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

Honourable JOHN AMOS VACHER
Minister of Justice and Community Services

Commencement: 31 January 2017

Citizenship (Contribution Program) Regulation Order No. 220 of 2016

Order 220 of 2016
Order 6 of 2017
Order 46 of 2018
Order 95 of 2018
Order 19 of 2019
Order 34 of 2019
Order 38 of 2020
Order 40 of 2024

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

1. Definitions
1A. Quota per annum
2. Selling prices
2A. Procedures for applications for citizenship under the Contribution Program
3. Prescribed fees
3A. Prescribed fee applicable for spouse and child of citizens under the VERP and Contribution Program

1. Definitions

In this Regulation unless the Act otherwise requires:

"Act" means the Citizenship Act [CAP 112];

"applicant" means an applicant for citizenship under the Contribution Program;

"child" means a natural or lawfully adopted child of an applicant or of the spouse who has not attained 18 years;

"children" has the same meaning as set out in the Act;

"Commission" means the Citizenship Commission established under Part 2 of the Act;

"Contribution Program" means the Contribution Program established under section 13D of the Act;

"Office" means the Citizenship Office;

resident dependant includes the following:

(a) a natural or adopted son or daughter of an applicant or his or her spouse who is or between the age of 18 to 25 years and is:

  (i) residing with or dependent upon the applicant or his or her spouse; and

  (ii) attending full time education; or

(b) the lawful mother or father of the applicant or his or her spouse who is:

  (i) residing with and is dependent upon the applicant or his or her spouse; and

  (ii) over the age of 50 years.

1A. Quota per annum

A designated agent is to achieve a minimum of 6 investors per annum.

2. Selling prices

The following selling prices apply in marketing the Contribution Program worldwide:

(a) for a single person –the selling price must not be less than USD130,000;

(b) for a married couple –the selling price must not be less than USD150,000;

(c) for a married couple and a child under 18 years of age –the selling price must not be less than USD165,000;

(d) for a married couple and 2 children under 18 years of age –the selling price must not be less than USD180,000.

2A. Procedures for applications for citizenship under the Contribution Program

(1) The following procedures apply in relation to an application for citizenship under the Contribution Program:

(a) The Office must, upon receiving an application under the Contribution Program, ensure the screening process under section 8C of the Act is carried out for each application;

(b) the Secretary General of the Office must inform the VGL of the decision of the Commission on each applicant within 48 hours from the time on which the Commission made its decision.

(2) The prescribed fees are to be paid in the following manner:

(a) an applicant must pay 25% of the prescribed fee due under his or her application before the Commission considers his or her application;

(b) an applicant must pay 75% of the prescribed fee due under his or her application before the Commission issues the certificate of citizenship to him or her.

(3) An applicant may pay 100 percent of the prescribed fee due under his or her application.

(4) To avoid doubt:

(a) payments set out under subclause (2) are deemed to have been made once the fees have been deposited into the Development Support account with the National Bank of Vanuatu; and satisfactory documentary proof of such payment being made has been received by the Commission; and

(b) if an application has been refused by the Commission, the 25% of the prescribed fee that has been paid under paragraph (2)(a) is not refundable to the applicant.

(5) The Commission must not consider the application of a person who has not paid the relevant prescribed fee as required by subclause (2).

(6) Subject to paragraph (2)(b), the Commission must issue a citizenship certificate to a person within 90 days after the application is approved.

(7) The Commission must not issue a citizenship certificate to a person who has not made the full payment of the prescribed amount in accordance with subclause 3(1).

(8) The Commission may accept applications from applicants from any restricted country if the applicant shows that he or she:

(a) has not resided in the restricted country for the last 5 years; and

(b) provides evidence of permanent residency abroad.

(9) The Commission must not approve the application of a person who has had a criminal conviction.

(10) The Office must notify the VGL of the approval in principle of an application from that agent within 48 hours of the approval in principle being made by the Commission.

(11) An application may only be refused by the Commission if the application does not meet the requirements set out under the Act and this Regulation.

(12) For the purpose of this clause, "international specialist firm" means a globally reputable firm specialised in citizenship and visa due diligence checks.

3. Prescribed fees

(1) The following categories of fees payable to the designated Government account, are prescribed for persons applying for citizenship under the Contribution Program:

(a) for a single person applying for citizenship:

(i) USD80,000; or

(ii) AUD111,000; or

(iii) NZD121,000;

(b) for married couple applying for citizenship:

(i) USD100,000; or

(ii) AUD139,000; or

(iii) NZD154,000;

(c) for a married couple plus a child under 18 years of age:

(i) USD 115,000; or

(ii) AUD160,000; or

(iii) NZD174,000;

(d) for a married couple plus 2 children under 18 years of age:

(i) USD 130,000; or

(ii) AUD181,000; or

(iii) NZD197,000;

(e) for an additional child:

(i) USD 10,000; or

(ii) AUD14,000; or

(iii) NZD16,000;

(f) for any additional resident dependent USD10,000.

(2) For cases where a person has been granted citizenship under the Vanuatu Economic Rehabilitation Program and the person intends to put in an application for his or her spouse and a child or 2 children, the person must only pay an administrative fee of USD5,000 or AUD7,000 or NZD8,000 to process the application. To avoid doubt, the person is not required to pay the fees set out under clause 3(1).

(3) For cases where a person has been granted citizenship under this Program before the fees have been reduced by Order No. 95 of 2018, and the person intends to put in an application for his or her spouse and a child or 2 children, the person must pay an administrative fee of USD5,000 to process the application. To avoid doubt, the person is not required to pay the fees set out under clause 3.

3A. Prescribed fee applicable for spouse and child of citizens under the VERP and Contribution Program

(1) For cases where a person has been granted citizenship under the VERP and the Contribution Program before the fees have been reduced by Order No. 95 of 2018, and the person intends to put in an application for his or her spouse and a child or 2 children, the person must pay an administration fee of USD5,000 to process the application.

(2) For cases where a person has been granted citizenship under the Contribution Program after the fees have been reduced by Order No. 95 of 2018, and the person intends to put in an application for his or her spouse and a child or 2 children, the person must pay an administration fee of USD 5000 and the difference between the amount paid on the first application and the new fees prescribed under subclause 3(1).

(3) For any other dependants apart from the spouse and a child or 2 children referred to in subclauses (1), the applicant must pay the fees as stated in subclause (2).

(4) To avoid doubt, a child born after a person is granted citizenship under the Honorary Citizenship DSP or VERP is a citizen of Vanuatu. The child is to pay a passport fee of VT10,000.

Table of Amendments

1	*Amended by Orders 34 of 2019; 40 of 2024*
1A	*Inserted by Order 40 of 2024*
2	*Substituted by Order 34 of 2019*
2A	*Inserted by Order 34 of 2019*
2A(1)	*Substituted by Order 40 of 2024*
2A(1)(a)	*Substituted by Order 38 of 2020*
2A(1)(b)	*Amended by Order 38 of 2020*
2A(12)	*Inserted by Order 38 of 2020*
3	*Substituted by Order 95 of 2018*
3(1)	*Amended by Order 6 of 2017*
3(1)	*Substituted by Order 34 of 2019*
3(1)(a) – (f)	*Substituted by Order 40 of 2024*
3(2A) – (2C)	*Inserted by Order 46 of 2018*
3(2)	*Amended by Orders 34 of 2019; 40 of 2024*
3(2) – (4)	*Inserted by Order 19 of 2019*
3(4)	*Repealed by Order 34 of 2019*
3A	*Inserted by Order 34 of 2019*