

Letterhead of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT)
Gaza Civil Liaison Administration (CLA)
October 2017

Gaza CLA - Temporary

Processing permit applications by Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip

1. The objective of this document is to present routine processing times of applications for permits to travel between the Gaza Strip and Israel (including for the purpose of transit to the West Bank or abroad) made by Gaza Strip residents for various purposes.
2. The permit application processing times listed in this document are an outcome of the need to conduct all required administrative and security checks, which are a condition for receiving the permit. These checks may vary occasionally in accordance with analysis of the situation and of threats posed by the entry of Gaza residents into Israel per se. Accordingly, processing times may sometimes change in light of analysis of the situation.
3. Note that this document presents processing times only and does not stipulate policy or substantive criteria for receipt of permits. These are listed in the “Status of Authorizations” document published by COGAT from time to time. In the case of a contradiction between the document herein and the Status of Authorizations, the policy and criteria published in the most recent Status of Authorizations document circulated by COGAT prevails.
4. Processing times are calculated from the moment the application is received by authorized officials at the Gaza CLA from the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee. Note that processing times in this document refer to “business days” only and do not include weekends and Jewish holidays. Processing time begins only once a full application is received; including all details, references and supporting documents required under the law and accepted procedures.
5. It is further noted that the numbers of days listed in this document are meant to serve as **maximal processing times**. Inasmuch as possible, and as part of the effort to improve service, authorized officials will strive to complete application processing as quickly as possible, depending on the circumstances of each case.
6. An application that is not submitted in the proper manner, subject to the relevant protocols, or submitted without the required references and documents to support its content, or submitted with incomplete, irrelevant or unsatisfactory documents, or submitted without the required information (including personal information, full name, ID number, required telephone numbers and other such information required under the directives relevant to the type of application) – cannot be considered on its own merits or processed within the schedules listed in this document and will be returned to the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee.
7. It should be clarified that sometimes, in light of critical security requirements, a more thorough security screening may be required in addition to routine security checks. Such screening may include a security interrogation for the resident applying for the permit. In these cases, processing times may be extended in keeping with the scope of the required security screening.

8. Exceptional requests for expedited processing will be considered in the most urgent humanitarian and particularly exceptional cases at the discretion of the CLA and subject to all necessary checks pertaining to the individual case.
9. This document revokes and replaces what was previously specified in the "Procedure for submitting a request by Palestinian residents to enter Israel to attend an event with a fixed date and set in advance" (COGAT, April 2015) with regards to processing times of applications by residents of the Gaza Strip.

10. Permit application processing times

- a. Permits for medical treatment (including people accompanying patients and travel abroad for medical treatment): 23 business days. Applications in cases involving an immediate medical emergency (life-saving) will be processed immediately.
- b. Visiting a sick relative (in the West Bank or Israel): 50 business days.
- c. Wedding in Israel/West Bank: 50 business days.
- d. Business meetings, attending conferences in Israel/West Bank: 50 business days.
- e. Entry for meetings at embassies and consulates in Israel/West Bank: 50 business days.
- f. Medical seminars and internships: 70 business days.
- g. Trade in Israel: 70 business days.
- h. Travel abroad for other purposes (subject to permissions status): 70 business days.
- i. Funeral in Israel: immediate processing.