

# Applying for a Blue Flag



# Why apply for Blue Flag?

1. Blue Flag is a symbol of HSE (Health Safety and Environment) quality
2. You will be the first Blue Flag beach/marina in the region
3. Municipalities and private bodies display their good environmental practices as a way to promote their destination.
4. Through good practices in water quality, environmental management, safety & services and environmental education, you help to improve the environmental quality of the coastal zone
5. You help to improve the behaviour of people working in or using these areas through education and awareness.



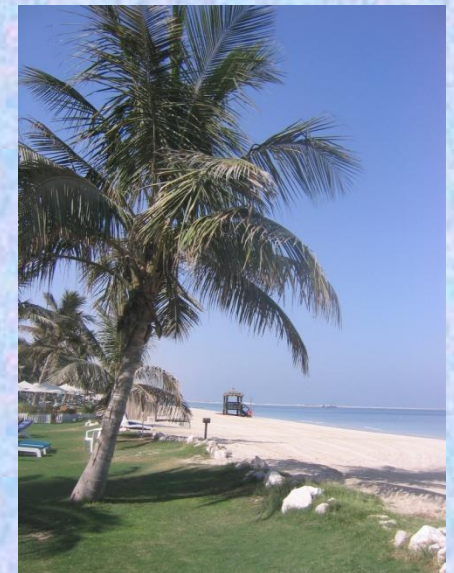
# Who can apply for Blue Flag?

1. Beaches: municipalities and hotels /resort
2. Marinas: marina owner.
3. The responsible local authority files the application form (with enclosed documentation) and sends it to the National Jury.
4. Beaches: approved bathing water data **from the previous year** to be submitted with documentation and the application.
5. Blue Flag beach/marina has to fulfill all imperative requirements, and in addition, the fulfillment of a maximum number of guideline criteria is taken into account



# In case of private beach?

1. Blue Flag is awarded to public as well as private beaches.
2. If a beach is private and/or organized by a hotel, **there must be public access to this beach.**
3. There can be a reasonable charge for entering a Blue Flag beach.



# Blue Flag Procedure



# National Jury

- 1. The National Jury is composed of all major relevant stakeholders on the national level.**
- 2. The National Jury evaluates the applications for compliance with the Blue Flag criteria and gives an approval or rejection on the national level. In special cases the National Jury can recommend a dispensation.**



# International Jury

- 1. The approved applications and the dispensation cases are forwarded from the National Jury to the International Jury.**
- 2. The International Jury is composed of the major relevant stakeholders on the international level.**
- 3. The International Jury carries out an evaluation before it finally decides which beaches and marinas to be awarded the Blue Flag for the season.**



# Award for one season/year

1. A Blue Flag awarded beach/marina is only awarded for one season (**in UAE = 1 year!**).
2. By renewing the award each season the Programme ensures that the beach/marina is constantly living up to the criteria.



# Compliance with the criteria during the season/year

1. The local authority is obliged to ensure compliance with the criteria whenever flying with the Blue Flag.
2. Visitor and guests at Blue Flag beaches/marinas are good observers of compliance with the Blue Flag criteria at the sites.
3. During the season, the local environmental protection agency is controlling the bathing water quality data.
4. The national organisation and the International Blue Flag Coordination are performing control visits to the Blue Flag sites.
5. In all cases of non-compliance with imperative criteria, the Blue Flag will be withdrawn.



# Water quality for UAE beaches

Beaches must have:

1. 4 year water quality sampling history
2. Minimum 5 samples per Blue Flag season
3. Intervals between sampling = max. 28 days

**BUT in UAE because bathing season is 1 year:**

**'4 year sampling history' can be compiled in 1 year:**

- 5 samples (minimum) x 4 years = 20 samples
- 20 samples collected evenly over 12 months (ca every 18 days) = '4 year sampling history'.

# Water quality for UAE beaches

## Microbiological and physical- chemical parameters

<b>Microbiological parameter</b>	<b>Limit Values</b>	<b>Accepted % test results higher than limit values</b>
<b>Faecal Colibacteria (<i>E. Coli</i>)</b>	<b>250 cfu/100ml</b>	<b>95% compliance of limit value</b>
<b>Intestinal Enterococci</b>	<b>100 cfu/100ml</b>	<b>95% compliance of limit value</b>

<b>Physical-chemical parameter</b>	<b>Imperative Values</b>	<b>Accepted % test results higher than limit value</b>
<b>pH</b>	<b>6 to 9</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Oils</b>	<p><b>Water: no film visible on the surface and no odour</b>  <b>Land: the beach must be monitored for such pollution and emergency plans should cover response in case of oil pollution</b>  <b>Municipal land-side sources must also be identified and managed</b>  <b>Accepted % test results higher than imperative value 5%</b></p>	
<b>Floatables: tarry residues, wood, plastic articles, bottles, containers, glass, plastic, rubber or any other substances</b>	<b>Absence of floatables</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Transparency/turbidity</b>	<b>Secchi depth &lt;1m or “no abnormal decrease” when &gt;1m cannot be respected for geographical reasons</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Colour</b>	<b>No abnormal change</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Surface active substances</b>	<b>&lt; 0.3mg/L</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Phenols</b>	<b>No specific odour</b>	<b>5%</b>

# UAE Blue Flag calendar

- January 2009: UAE candidature for Blue Flag Programme
- January 2009-March 2010: Feasibility study
- March 2010: National Blue Flag Committee
- 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010: 1st National Blue Flag workshop
- April 2010-April 2011: Pilot Phase
- Spring 2011: Official launch of the program and **acceptance of applications for all UAE by National Jury**

Documentation and forms downloadable on

[www.ewswwf.ae](http://www.ewswwf.ae)

and

[www.blueflag.org](http://www.blueflag.org)