

QATARI CODES OF CONDUCT

Qatar is an Islamic state and expatriates and visitors need to observe the customs, laws and sensitivities applicable to its Islamic culture. All persons in Qatar are subject to the country's laws and regulations. Some of these laws differ significantly from those in the employee's home country. Further, the penalties for breaking a law in Qatar can result in more severe consequences than they might have experienced in their home country for a similar offense. Persons violating Qatari laws--even unknowingly-- may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned depending upon the circumstances. Some examples follow:

- Driving under the influence of alcohol is a very serious offense in Qatar. The country also applies a zero-tolerance attitude to the use and possession of illegal drugs. Alcohol should only be consumed in the home/private residence or at authorized restaurants. Alcohol should never be consumed in public places, e.g., parks. It is also illegal to transport liquor in your vehicle except from the point of sale directly to your home.
- Public displays of intimate affection between men and women is discouraged. If such action is considered offensive and detrimental to Qatar's culture and values, individuals could be detained and/or prosecuted if laws are broken. Homosexual activity is a criminal offense in Qatar, with those convicted of such action subject to applicable judicial treatment and/or deportation.
- There are many photographic opportunities in Qatar. However, as in most cultures, courtesy requires discretion when photographing local residents to ensure they are in agreement with such an action. Always ask for their permission before taking photographs.
- While a specific dress code is not mandated, both men and women should dress in appropriate, modest clothing. Employees and their families should be particularly conscious of their dress when visiting the large shopping malls, souqs or other areas frequented by mixed nationalities. It is particularly important to dress modestly during the month of Ramadan. Normal swimwears, including bikinis, are acceptable on the beach and pool areas with modest cover-ups, T-shirts, etc desirable when bathers move away from the swimming areas. Topless sunbathing by women is not permitted.