

Regulations of the supervision of excavation, restoration, conservation, and site planning that are to be implemented at archaeological sites

Aim:

Article 1: The aim of these regulations is to designate the rules and principles for checking the short, mid or long term excavation, restoration, conservation and site planning projects that are carried out by archaeological excavations with the permission of the Ministry in order to unearth and preserve cultural heritage, prevent natural and human destruction, and organize sites for better understanding.

Legal Basis:

Article 2: These Regulations are prepared according to the 35th, 39th, 44th, 45th and 46th articles of law no. 2863 entitled Preservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage; and the 9th article of the Regulations concerning research, boring, and excavation of Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Abbreviations:

Article 3: The following abbreviations are used:

Ministry: Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Excavation Site: The sites where archaeological excavations are conducted by the permission of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Objectives:

Article 4: Our objective is to bring the standards of excavations and restorations carried out in our country to the acceptable international level and to solve problems in order to place Turkey in its well-deserved position in world archaeology. Our ultimate goal is to preserve our cultural heritage and pass it on safely to the next generations.

Methods:

Article 5: Excavation directors should give weight to the preservation and restoration of the artifacts found during excavations and undertake preservation and site planning together with excavations. Three-year plans regarding these activities and site planning should be submitted to the Ministry.

Each year a detailed plan of the excavations and restorations of the following three years should be submitted by December 31 at the latest.

Personnel and financial sources for present and future activities should be allocated for every season to work for long-term periods (average 3 months).

Excavations and restorations should follow the guidelines outlined in “Regulations for site planning, restoration, and conservation at archaeological excavations and excavation sites”.

Supervision:

Article 6: A commission of a total of seven members will be established. The chairman of the commission will be the assistant undersecretary [Müsteşar Yardımcısı] of the Ministry. The general director of the Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums [Kültür Varlıkları ve

Müzeler Genel Müdürü], when not in presence, his assistant director; director of the excavations and research section [kazılar ve araştırmalar dairesi başkanı], when not on duty, the director of the excavations branch [kazılar şube müdürü]; two technical specialists from the Ministry (archaeologist, art historian, architect, restorer, construction engineer, landscape architect, etc.) and two academics from the relevant departments of universities will take part in the commission.

This commission meets on the basis of a quorum and the votes are decided based on a two-thirds majority. Each member has one vote. When there is a deadlock the decision of the chair is accepted.

The excavations carried out by the permission of the Ministry now and in the future will be examined by the commission members appointed by the Ministry and made up of members relevant to the site (archaeologist, art historian, architect, restorer, construction engineer, landscape architect, etc.). The technical report after the inspection of the site by this team will be presented to the other members of the commission.

One year will be given by the Ministry to the excavation director to correct any reported shortcomings and perform the required work. The permit for excavation on the site will be postponed for one year starting from the day of the notification.

At the end of this one-year term, the permit for excavation will be renewed by the Ministry if the required work is carried out. Otherwise action will be taken to nullify the permit to excavate given by the Council of Ministers.

Validity:

Article 7: This decision has been enacted on 9 August 2005 with the validation no. 115868 of the Ministry.