



IECI REGULATION 11 / 2004

MEDIA

Preamble

CPA Order number 92 of 31 May 2004 established the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) to be the exclusive electoral authority in Iraq. It is an independent and autonomous, non-partisan, neutral and professional government office, with the authority to promulgate, implement, and enforce regulations, rules and procedures with the full force of law in connection with elections during the Transitional Period.

This regulation elaborates on the legal framework already in place, and is issued by the IECI in consequence of the authorizations given in orders 92, 96 and 97.

Section 1 Terminology

- 1.1. “TAL” means Transitional Administrative Law
- 1.2. “Commission” and “IECI” mean the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, as established by CPA Order number 92
- 1.3. “Campaign code” means the code of the media campaign during the election period, adopted by the Iraqi National Communications and Media Commission
- 1.4. “NCMC” means the National Communications and Media Commission, as established by CPA Order number 65.
- 1.5. “Campaign period” means the period prior to an election defined by the IECI as the period during which the political entities and coalitions may conduct their election campaigns.
- 1.6. “Media” means entities that provide news, information or entertainment to the general public, or on a subscription basis, using means including, but not limited to, printed material, film, video, audio, recordings or communications services.

Section 2

Voter education and public information

- 2.1 Iraqi media have a duty to inform readers, listeners and viewers accurately and in a timely manner about the electoral process. Information about electoral procedures, regulations and policy must be based on official information obtained through the IECI.
- 2.2 All media shall provide unbiased information about the policies of the various political entities and coalitions.
- 2.3 There shall be a media silence period between the end of the campaign period and the closing of the polling stations at the end of polling, during which there shall be no media coverage of any Iraqi partisan political activity. This silence period does not apply to information issued by the IECI about the electoral process.

Section 3

Media presence at IECI premises

- 3.1. Members of the media who wish to enter IECI premises such as the national, regional and governorate offices must first seek permission from the person in that office designated for media liaison.
- 3.2. Members of the media who wish to enter registration centres, polling centres, and counting centres must seek IECI media accreditation, which will be issued according to procedures to be developed by the IECI.
- 3.3. No photographs or filming of anyone attending such premises may be made without the express permission of those individuals being filmed or photographed. Even with the permission of a voter, the film or photograph may not reveal the intention of a voter in the polling booth.

Section 4

Offences

- 4.1. The IECI will transfer any offence to the Iraqi National Communications and Media Commission or to the Iraqi judiciary according to the type of offence.

Section 5 Regulation Enforcement

- 5.1. This regulation will be enforced after the approval of the Board of Commissioners.