

THE NEW FRENCH CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM OF HOTELS

The decree of 22 December 2008 sets new standards for the classification of French hotels.

Hotels in France are classified into five categories represented by stars (1 to 5 *), going from the lowest category to the highest in term of quality and comfort.

Classification system is based on a voluntary system and is charged. The hotel owner is responsible for costs of classification.

Classification awarded to the hotel is valid for 5 years.

➤ The new benchmark for classification

The new classification grid is made up of between 225 to 233 criteria depending on the category of the establishment.

These criteria are divided into mandatory criteria and “à la carte” criteria.

A system of point representing the different criteria has been set up. Each criterion is assigned a point value.

To be officially classified as in a given category, a hotel must obtain the mandatory criteria required and criteria “à la carte”.

Exceptionally, if an establishment doesn't attain the number of point required for the mandatory criteria, up to 5% of “à la carte” points may be used to compensate (within 3 points by missing points).

You will find attached the new grid of hotel classification.

➤ The classification procedure

According to the new standards, if an owner wants his hotel to be officially classified, he has to call specialised auditors to carry out the visits to check the hotel.

This audit firm must be accredited by COFRAC, a national accreditation body.

This audit firm can't advise the hotelier. His mission is limited to evaluate and check the hotel. He gives his assessment report to the hotelier.

When the hotelier receives the evaluation, he addresses his request for classification to the prefect of department where his hotel is located.

In support of his request for classification, the hotelier produces the visit certificate delivered by the audit firm. Then, the Prefect has to make its decision.

The Prefect transmits its decision to the Tourist Development Agency of France (Atout France).

The Synhorcat will detail you the new procedure for requesting classification as soon as negotiations will end.