

**Ministry of VROMI**  
**Public Housing, Spatial**  
**Planning, Environment**  
**and Infrastructure**

**Consultation Hours:**  
**Monday through**  
**Thursday**  
**8.00-12.00**

All application forms are  
downloadable from our  
website:  
[www.sintmaartengov.org](http://www.sintmaartengov.org)



For additional  
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contact the  
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**The process to obtain  
a Hindrance Permit**

**Ministry of VROMI**  
**ST. MAARTEN**



**Ministry of**  
**Public Housing,**  
**Spatial Planning,**  
**Environment and**  
**Infrastructure**

## Here's what you need to

The process for requesting a Hindrance Permit and determination of when such a permit is needed, is regulated in the Hindrance Ordinance and derivative regulations. (AB 2013 GT nr. 139 and AB 2013 GT nr. 140). These laws are available online at [www.sintmaartengov.org](http://www.sintmaartengov.org) in the Laws Database

### When is a Hindrance Permit needed?

A Hindrance Permit is required for specific types of activities that can cause danger, damage and/or nuisance to the environment or the surroundings. It is tied to regulations which are meant to protect the environment and ensure safe and clean practices on Sint Maarten.

The regulations generally pertain to regulating, preventing, and/or limiting:

- ◆ Soil pollution
- ◆ Water pollution
- ◆ Noise pollution
- ◆ Air pollution
- ◆ Odor pollution
- ◆ (External) Safety
- ◆ Energy

There are various stages in the process to obtain a Hindrance Permit, consisting of the Registration, Public review, Evaluation, Approval or Denial and Issuance of the Decree:

## Registration

### Pre-evaluation

A permit evaluator will ensure that the application form is filled in and completed correctly with all required documentation enclosed. The application form is available online in the Ministry of VROMI section at [www.sintmaartengov.org/Government](http://www.sintmaartengov.org/Government) or at the office of the Ministry of VROMI. If there are amendments to be made or documentation is missing, the application will not be accepted and registered until the necessary corrections are made. After the pre-evaluation process is completed, the request will be registered. An invoice for the payment of processing- and publication fees will be issued in the amount of Naf 550,- which consists of:

Processing fee	Naf 250,-
Publication fee	Naf 300,-

The fees must be paid at the Receiver's Office and a copy of the receipt returned to the Department of Permits in order to start the evaluation process. It is recommended to keep the invoice at hand when requesting the status of the application to be able to refer to the registration number (HP #) and the name of the permit evaluator.

## Public review

After having received confirmation of payment, the request will be placed on public review for 2 (two) weeks, for which a notice will be made in the daily newspapers.

### Objections

Concerned parties may submit objections or other information regarding the request to the Minister of VROMI during the period of public review. Received objections and/or concerns will be taken into account and can result into having an official hearing with stakeholders.

## Evaluation

Permit applications are evaluated for compliance to the Hindrance Ordinance and derivative regulations. The time frame of this process depends on the type, complexity and scope of the requested activities.

### Consultation

Consultation is requested from both internal as well as external parties i.e. the Inspection- and Fire Department.

### Additional information

Adjustments to the application and/or additional information could be required for compliance to applicable laws and regulations. In such case the applicant will be notified and a maximum of 4 (four) weeks are provided to make the necessary adjustments. Failure to do so can result in denial or cancellation of the request.

## Approval or Denial

After completion of the evaluation an advice is submitted to the Minister of VROMI for decision making. The decision can result in an approval, partial approval or denial of the Hindrance Permit application. A request can be partially approved if it is not possible to make adjustments for full compliance to applicable laws and derivative regulations. In the event of approval or partial approval of a Hindrance Permit, the Decree can entail regulations pertaining to pollution, (external) safety and energy.

## Issuance

The Decree entailing the decision of the Minister of VROMI will be issued to the applicant by the Department of Permits.

### Appeal

The Decree and regulations thereto are subject to appeal by concerned parties within a period of 6 (six) weeks after issuance.

### Compliance

Permit holders are required to comply with the regulations of the Hindrance Permit. Failure to do so can result in fines, orders to cease the activities and/or revocation of the Permit.