

**INSTRUCTION**  
**on the rules for marking voters' thumbs**  
**with invisible ink on the voting day**

The rules for marking the voter's thumb with invisible ink and determining ink stain upon issuing ballot (voting) paper (hereafter referred to as – ballot paper) on the voting day in the elections (referendum) (hereafter referred to as - elections) of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be regulate by Articles 102, 104.6 of the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereafter referred to as – Election Code) and the Instruction.

**1. General provisions**

1.1. The rules for inking voters' thumbs and determining ink stain along with other measures considered in legislation during the voting process shall be applied for legitimate ensure of voters' voting rights.

1.2. Inking the voter's thumb upon issuing a ballot paper on the voting day shall be implemented by spraying painless and invisible liquid ink by the member of the Precinct Election Commission (PEC). And ultraviolet lamp is used for determining the ink stain on the voter's thumb.

1.3. Ultraviolet lamps and ink boxes shall be used only in the cases implied by the Instruction.

**2. Rules for providing lower election commissions with ultraviolet lamps, spare batteries and ink boxes**

2.1. Every PEC shall be provided with the following equipments for the purposes indicated in item 1.2 of the Instruction:

2.1.1. ultraviolet lamp (at least one);

2.1.2. spare battery (one kit);

2.1.3. an ink box with sprinkler (considering the number of voters, 1 for 500 persons, 2 for 1000 persons and 3 for 1500 persons).

2.2. Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereafter referred to as – Central Election Commission) shall distribute the equipments indicated in item 2.1 of the Instruction according to the number of voters and submits to Constituency Election Commissions (Con.EC) on the basis of relevant act at latest 5 days prior to the voting day.

2.3. Con.ECs shall provide PECs (Appendix 2 to Instruction) with the equipments indicated in item 2.1 of the Instruction on the basis of relevant act in a manner defined by item 2.2 of the Instruction at latest 2 days prior to the voting day.

2.4. Suitability of ultraviolet lamps, spare batteries and ink boxes shall be checked by the election commission which has received them after being provided, as well as, on the day before the voting day. If any or all of these equipments is not effective and the shortcomings could not be prevented, then the PEC members shall compile an act on this and report the Con.EC immediately. The Con.EC must provide this PEC with new equipments urgently. These equipments shall be kept in the polling station.

2.5. The chairpersons of election commissions shall undertake responsibility for providing and protecting ultraviolet lamps and ink boxes.

### **3. The rule for using ultraviolet lamps and ink boxes on the voting day**

3.1. Checking ultraviolet lamps and ink boxes before opening the polling station, marking voters' thumbs with invisible ink and determining ink stain on thumbs may be observed by the persons implied by Article 40.2 and 40.4 of the Election Code, as well as, representatives of mass media.

3.2. The commission member who greets the voters coming to the polling station firstly, shall check ID card or its substitute document of the voter, as well as, ink stain by using ultraviolet lamp on the basis of working distribution held by the PEC chairman. The commission member shall keep away the lamp from bright light at a distance of 2-3 sm from the thumb. If ink stain is found out, then he/she shall be requested to leave the polling station. The voter without ink on thumb shall be allowed to enter the polling station.

3.3. The commission member responsible for issuing ballot papers to the voters shall check ID card or its substitute document and after determining suffrage of the voter, shall offer to mark his/her thumb with invisible ink before he/she signs in the voters' list or de-registration card. If the voter agrees, the member shall mark a part of his/her left thumb nail and skin by spraying. If the voter has not got this thumb, the finger next to it, if he/she has not got left hand, then right thumb shall be inked (if the voter has not got right thumb, then the above-mentioned rule is applied). The member of election commission shall make sure that a part of the voter's nail and skin has been marked. The commission member should ask the voter to wait for the ink to get dry and not to touch his/her thumb.

3.4. The voter who objects his/her thumb to be inked shall be explained that he/she won't be issued a ballot paper. If the voter doesn't agree, then he/she shall be required to leave the polling station and relevant note "refused to be marked" shall be indicated in front of this voter's name in the voters' list.

3.5. The voter's thumb shall not be marked with invisible ink during the voting outside of the polling station.

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