

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY (HOME)
GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
DELHI SECRETARIAT, I. P. ESTATE
NEW DELHI

DELHI FIRE
HEAD QUARTERS
Govt of N.C.T. of Delhi
Connaught Place, New Delhi-11
11.4.05
Gate Door Diary 4.51

No. 4/22/2004/HP-III/356-369

Dated: 22-March, 2005

To

Shri R.C. Sharma
Chief Fire Officer,
Delhi Fire Service Headquarters,
Connaught Place,
NEW DELHI-110 001.

दिल्ली नगर निगम
आयुक्त कार्यालय

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Sub- Introduction of fire safety measures in restaurants of height below 15 mtrs and seating capacity of 50 and more under the National Building Code/Delhi Building Byelaws

The issue of fire safety in premises in which restaurants are located and which are less than 15 mtrs in height has been engaging the attention of the Government of NCT of Delhi for quite some time. Presently the Delhi Fire Prevention & Fire Safety Act, 1986 and Rules of 1987 framed thereunder apply only to buildings with height 15 mtrs and above. Considering that there are thousands of premises in the city used as restaurants, and which have seating accommodation for 50 customers or more, and may have even decorated the interiors of such restaurants using inflammable materials, these are vulnerable to sudden outbreak of fires thereby jeopardising the lives of customers. Most such restaurants do not even have elementary facilities for extinguishing fires. From time to time, some of these restaurants also apply for bar licences from the Excise Department.

2. It has now been decided by the Government to ensure minimum fire safety measures in restaurants of the above description in view of recent fire mishaps. For this purpose, clause 4.1.4 of the National Building Code of India defining "Assembly Buildings", clause 7.10.2 of the same code which prescribes various fire service arrangements in "Assembly Buildings" of height less than 15 mtrs (which include restaurants in such buildings, byelaw 2.5.4.4 of the Delhi Building Byelaws, 1983 (which defines "Assembly Buildings" and includes restaurants irrespective of the height of the building in which these are located), byelaw 6.2.4.1 of the Delhi Building Byelaws, 1983 requiring submission of building plans even in case of restaurants (irrespective of height restrictions), byelaw 7.6.1 of the Delhi Building Byelaws, 1983 (providing for inspection by the Chief Fire Officer and clearance by him in the context of fire safety) and byelaw 17.1 of the Delhi Building Byelaws, 1983 (providing for fire safety in accordance with Part IV of the National Building Code of India) and including restaurants (as provided for under byelaw 6.2.4.1), are relevant.

3. Thus, restaurants, regardless of whether they are in buildings of height of 15 mtrs and below or above, need to conform with fire safety requirements as prescribed above. However, in practice, this has so far not been happening because local bodies like the MCD/NDMC and others have been granting trade licences to restaurant owners without seeking NOC from the Chief Fire Officer. This has also been the case with regard to Dy. Commissioner of Police/Licensing in respect of licences for eating houses. Also wherever a bar licence is required from the Excise Commissioner the issue of a fire safety NOC by the Chief Fire Officer is relevant.

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4. Normally, the requirement of fire safety in buildings with height less than 15 mtrs as prescribed under the National Building Code Part IV dealing with "Assembly Buildings" which includes restaurants should be as follows:-

- (1) Fire Extinguishers as per IS 2190
- (2) Hose Reel
- (3) Wet Riser - If more than one storey
- (4) Sprinkler system - If covered area is more than 1500 m² or seating capacity more than 1000 persons
- (5) Automatic detection system - If sprinkler is not provided
- (6) Illuminated Exit signs
- (7) Manual Call Points
- (8) Yard Hydrants
- (9) Underground Water tank - 50000 ltrs
- (10) Terrace Tank - 5000 for hose reel & 10000 if sprinkled is not involved.
- (11) Pumps

<u>Near U/G Water Tank</u>	<u>Terrace Pumps</u>
(1) Main - 1620 LPM	450/950 LPM
(2) Diesel - 1620 LPM	
(3) Jockey - 180 LPM	
- (12) Access (minimum 4.5 mtrs) in case is a boundary wall in the plot
- (13) Emergency light with battery back up
- (14) Electric Wiring
- (15) Emergency power supply to meet the requirement of fire safety facilities
- (16) Means of escape
- (17) Smoke venting

5. Now the Government have decided that in case of all restaurants with seating capacity of 50 persons and more in buildings of height less than 15 mtrs, it will be mandatory for the civic bodies (MCD/NDMC/Delhi Cantonment Board) and Dy. Commissioner of Police/Licensing to refer all cases of new applications for trade licences and licences for eating houses to the Chief Fire Officer for NOC on fire safety in conformity with the aforementioned fire safety prescriptions. It is only after the Chief Fire Officer has given the requisite NOC, should the civic body concerned, or Dy. Commissioner of Police/Licensing consider the applications for issue of trade licence or for eating house licence, whichever may be relevant.

6. However, there are a large number of already existing restaurants in buildings of height 15 mtrs or below in the city in premises which may not be able to cater to requirements like an underground water tank of 50000 ltrs capacity due to absence of space at the ground level, or a terrace tank of 10000 ltrs capacity to feed sprinklers owing to the weight of such a tank which may be beyond the load carrying capacity of the terrace, and the structure of the building, and also in providing main and stand by pumps of adequate capacity near underground water tank, due to constraints of space. Also the National Building Code prescribed requirement of exits within 6 mtrs of dead ends and also with travelling distances of more than 13 mtrs, may not be feasible.

7. In such cases of already existing restaurants, the civic bodies concerned (in case of trade licences), the Dy. Commissioner of Police/Licensing (in case of licences for eating houses) and the Excise Commissioner (in case of bar licences) will be required to refer all such existing licences of restaurants with seating capacity of 50 and above to the Chief Fire Officer for a NOC. The Chief Fire Officer would then evaluate their cases, and keeping in mind the constraints of space, load carrying capacity, etc., in such already existing restaurants, insist on certain immediate safety measures being put in place as an interim measure, and these shall include at least the following requirements:-

- (1) Hose Reel
- (2) Down Comer : Required for Ground - 3 and above but less than 15 mtrs height.

- (3) Automatic Sprinkler System : Required except in case of restaurants at ground floor only with provision of a Fire Service two way Inlet at ground floor.
- (4) Manually Operated Electric Fire Alarm systems
- (5) Terrace Tank : 2500 litres for Hose Reel and 5000 ltrs in case of Sprinkler and Down Comer
- (6) Fire pump at the terrace level with minimum pressure of 0.3 N/mm (3 kg/cm²) : 225 LPM with 40 mtrs head at terrace in case of hose reel, 450 LPM in case of sprinkler/down comer and a jockey pump of suitable capacity 180 LPM/225 LPM respectively.
- (7) Fire extinguishers as per IS : 2190
- (8) Access to Plot : Minimum 4.5 mtr
- (9) Emergency light with battery back up
- (10) Electric wiring to be of conduit or concealed type with MCB/ELCB
- (11) Illuminated exit signs
- (12) Emergency power supply to meet the requirement of fire safety facilities
- (13) Means of escape : Two exits for restaurants above 50 seats or if the restaurant is functioning at 2nd floor (above G+1) or above this floor
- (14) Smoke venting

8. The above measures including requirements of NOC from the Chief Fire Officer will put a severe strain on the Fire Department which should quickly organise itself to cope with the same, both efficiently, fairly, and expeditiously ensuring against any public grievance or inconvenience. The Delhi Fire Service should also prescribe a maximum time limit for the Department for dealing with such NOC requests, and sending a reply to the referring agency which may be any one of the following:-

- (i) Civic body (MCD, NDMC, Delhi Cantonment Board)
- (ii) Delhi Police (Licensing Department)
- (iii) Excise Commissioner

9. I am directed to request you to organise the Fire Department on these lines urgently and deal with such references expeditiously.

Yours faithfully,

(RINKU DHUGGA)
ADDL. SECRETARY (HOME)

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Rinku Dhugga
(RINKU DHUGGA)
ADDL. SECRETARY (HOME)