



NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI/26-1

22 July 2020

Shri BS Bhalla
Principal Secretary (Home)
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Delhi Secretariat, IP Estate
New Delhi – 110002
Email: pshome@nic.in

FIRE NOCS FOR RESTAURANTS
REQUEST FOR URGENT ASSISTANCE

Dear Sir,

1. Greetings from the National Restaurant Association of India. At the outset, we would like to thank you for your time on the call today, and for your encouraging remarks on the issues put up as related to Delhi Fire Service / fire norms for restaurants.

2. As discussed on today's call, the following discussion points are summarised:

- a) The restaurant industry is facing a crisis situation for its very existence due to the COVID pandemic. Many businesses will shut down – leading to loss of jobs and revenue.
- b) We thank the government for identifying that businesses need assistance at this critical juncture. Hon'ble LG's directions for automatic extensions and renewals of licenses is a welcome step.
- c) However, the above relief is stuck due to the impasse created by Delhi Fire Service around fire norms and issue of NOCs to the industry.
- d) The entire issue stems from a letter issued by DFS last year on 13-03-2019 (attached for ready reference) – which changed the criterion for issue of fire NOCs to all restaurants having gross area of more than 90 Sq Mts irrespective of seating. As per existing law, restaurants with seating of less than 50 covers did not need a fire NOC.
- e) While there are technical and legal issues yet to be resolved around this letter, all departments have already started implementation of the new norms for fire NOCs – that too with retrospective effect.

ANURAG KATRIAR
Executive Director & CEO
deGustibus Hospitality
Pvt. Ltd.
President

KABIR SURI
Co-Founder & Director
Azure Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.
Vice President

PRATIK POTA
CEO
Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd.
Hony. Secretary

NITIN SALUJA
Founder Chaayos
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- f) The above will cause majority of businesses in Delhi to shut down – which otherwise were operating legally for past two decades.
- g) The matter has also been stayed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court vide order dated 18-03-2020 in W.P.(C) 2913/2020 & CM APPL. 10125/2020 (Blue Door Café Vs NDMC and others). (Attached).
- h) A special committee was set up constituted by the GNCT of Delhi vide order No F. No. 16/5/2019/Home-III/8410-8422 dated 27.11.19 for a comprehensive review of the issues involved, and to make suitable recommendations regarding norms to be followed by restaurants and guest houses.
- i) NRAI was inducted as a member on our request to the government. Our representative Mr. Santosh Jindal participated in the proceedings and made submissions. While no communication has been received by us from the committee, a copy of the committee's purported final report is in circulation and available with us.
- j) We wish to put up our objections points related to inconsistencies in the report. For this, we request that the report be also sent to NRAI – being a member of the committee.

3. However, while the issues around fire norms for restaurants are still under consideration/finalisation, we request for your urgent intervention for the following assistance:

- a) Applicability of new fire norms for restaurants which are less than 50 covers but more than 90 Sq. Mts. to be put on hold, till the matter is finalised / resolved.
- b) The norms/policies as were as applicable before the issue of letter by DFS should be considered for extension of licenses up to 31st March 2021.
- c) This is most critical for businesses to restart operations post lock down without any harassment. It will also be in the true spirit of helping the economy to revive.
- d) The special committee be directed to forward its report to NRAI immediately, in order for us to offer our observations/objections on the recommendations made therein.
- e) The report of the committee be reviewed – basis our observations / objections.



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4. It is reiterated that the organized segment of the restaurant industry is committed to ensuring safety of guests and staff, and will be most willing to adopt all practical modern systems/technology as may be required for enhancing safety norms.

5. We once again humbly request for your kind consideration of the above points, which are critical for the mere survival of the industry. We will be glad to further explain/discuss the issues as may be required. We look forward to your favourable decision on the above, for which we will be ever grateful.

Thanking You,

Sincerely,

Prakul Kumar
Secretary General
For National Restaurant Association of India
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Tel - 011-41000967
Mob – 8860640879

Encl: As stated.

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