



NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI/2-16

18 July 2020

To,
Joint Commissioner of Police (Licensing)
Police Station Defence Colony (FF)
Near Moolchand Hospital
New Delhi -110049

APPEAL FOR AUTOMATIC RENEWAL OF EATING HOUSE
REGISTRATIONS IN VIEW OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Dear Sir,

1. Greetings from the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI). We write to you on the above captioned subject, and at the outset would like to thank you for your time on the meeting held on 16-07-2020, and for your encouraging response to the issues put up.

2. Sir, the industry is going through its worst ever crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent closures. We are staring at unmeasurable losses, prospect of several businesses closing down and most importantly, a scary spectre of job loss to millions in the sector that employs more than seven million people.

3. It is also evident that for customer sentiment to return anywhere near normal will take another at least 8 months to a year after full reopening of the industry. We therefore seek your urgent assistance, and would like to put up the following points for your consideration please, as are mentioned in succeeding paras.

4. Extension of Licenses up to 31st March 2021. We request for automatic extension of existing Eating House registrations for FY 2020-21 on payment of fees. This should be done by relying on the documents that have already been submitted for the previous years' renewals/grant of licenses. This is as per the directions of Hon'ble LG, vide letter no. 100(3)/2017/RN/125/A-1372 dated 20-05-2020 directing all licensing authorities to give automatic extension / renewals of licenses to restaurants which stand expired after 01-03-2020.

5. In this regard, it is to inform you that during a recent meeting held on 13th July 2020 with Commissioner SDMC and senior officers of health department, we have been informed of the following:-

(a) Due to prevailing extraordinary circumstances due to COVID, we were advised to file our renewal applications for Health/Trade license directly on the respective department portal for the period up to 31st March 2021. Renewals will be done automatically on submission of application and fees.

(b) The time line to apply for renewal without any penalty etc. was till 31st July 2020. As per NRAI's request, the departments are considering our submission favourably to extend this date to 30th September 2020, since most restaurants have still not become operational.

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
Sunshine Teahouse
Pvt. Ltd.
Hony. Jt. Secretary

MANPREET SINGH
Director
K S Hotels Pvt. Ltd.
Hony. Treasurer

PRAKUL KUMAR
Secretary General



NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

6. Processing Through Unified Portal. We request that processing of licenses through the unified portal be put on hold only for renewal of existing licenses and only up to 31st March 2021. This is to avoid the problem of clearances being linked to all departments' approvals on the unified portal, specially related to Fire NOCs. NRAI will continue to engage with MHA in order to resolve all the pending issues related to the unified portal as soon as the situation normalises.

7. Fire NOCs. Issues around new fire norms given by the Delhi Fire Service are not yet resolved/finalised. While these are under consideration at various levels – including a special committee formed for the same – the matter has also been recently stayed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. This confusion has been ongoing since the issue of a letter by DFS dated 13-03-2019, due to which many restaurants could not get their renewals done for the previous year as well. An ad-hoc extension for three months had been granted to the affected restaurants. We request the following:

(a) That the policy as was applicable before the issue of letter by DFS may be considered for extension of licenses up to 31st March 2021, or finalisation of new fire policy – whichever is later.

(b) This will not pose any safety threat since restaurants are being operated at drastically reduced capacities due to social distancing/other COVID related restrictions.

(c) We would like to reiterate that the organised segment of the restaurant industry will be most willing to adopt all practical modern systems/technology as may be required for enhancing safety norms.

8. 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
Authorised Signatory
Email - prakul.kumar@nrai.org
Tel - 011-41000967
Mob – 8860640879

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
Sunshine Teahouse
Pvt. Ltd.
Hony. Jt. Secretary

MANPREET SINGH
Director
K S Hotels Pvt. Ltd.
Hony. Treasurer

PRAKUL KUMAR
Secretary General