



NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI / 2-12

16 August 2020

To,
The Commissioner
Department of Excise, Entertainment & Luxury Tax
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Vikas Bhawan
New Delhi – 110002
Email: cexcise@nic.in

REQUEST FOR LIQUOR SERVICE IN RESTAURANTS ALONG WITH DINE-IN

Dear Sir,

1. Greetings from National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI). We write to you on the above captioned subject, and would like to put up the following points as are mentioned in succeeding paras.

2. While restaurant dine-in has been permitted from 08th June onwards, the industry is not being permitted for liquor service along with dine-in. This is due to an error in the interpretation of the generic term 'Bars' as mentioned in the unlock guidelines of MHA. The following points are relevant:

- a) The ministry's guidelines around distinction of 'Bars' has created the present unfounded confusion of including dine-in liquor service in restaurants under the prohibited list.
- b) Retail sale of liquor was one of the first activities to be opened up in all states. It is pertinent to mention that it makes no difference if guests at a table consume food during dine-in along with a soft drink, coffee or an alcoholic beverage.
- c) The present restrictions are detrimental for all stakeholders – leading to losses for the business; revenue loss to the government; and above all a reduction in the overall consumer sentiment, which is most essential for increasing consumption and economic revival.
- d) Opening up of the restaurant dine-in sector across the world has been done with full service of food along with liquor.

3. It is also pertinent to mention that some neighbouring states like Punjab and Rajasthan have delinked liquor service on table from the generic term 'Bars' as mentioned in the MHA guidelines. Accordingly, these states have permitted liquor service on table along with dine-in. It is suggested that the same interpretation of the issue be applied to permit liquor service on table along with dine-in. Attached with this letter are the relevant orders issued by these states.

ANURAG KATRIAR
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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
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Hony. Jt. Secretary

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K S Hotels Pvt. Ltd.
Hony. Treasurer

PRAKUL KUMAR
Secretary General



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4. In view of the above, it is requested that liquor service in restaurants during dine-in should be permitted urgently by delinking the same from the generic term 'Bars' as is mentioned in the MHA guidelines. Some additional guidelines for the above may be included as mentioned below:

- a) Bar counters to remain closed for service across the counter.
- b) Liquor service be allowed only along with dine-in at the table.
- c) SOPs issued for dine-in to be followed.

5. It is reiterated that the restaurant industry is one of the worst hit due to the pandemic, and is fighting for its mere survival. The above suggestions are critical to help restaurants recover quickly, as also for improving consumer sentiment, government revenues and overall economic revival. We look forward to your positive response on the above.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

Prakul Kumar
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For National Restaurant Association of India
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