

27th March 2018
RAI/ADV/2018/019

**Shri Rajesh Kumar,
Hon'ble Principal Secretary,
Labour Department,
Government of Maharashtra.**

**Subject: Clarification required regarding 24/7 operation of retail shops
and establishments in Maharashtra State.**

Hon'ble Principal Secretary,

Greetings from Retailers Association of India (RAI)!

Retailers Association of India (RAI) is the unified voice of Indian retailers, working with all the stakeholders for creating the right environment for the growth of the modern retail industry in India. RAI is the body that encourages, develops, facilitates and supports retailers to become modern and adopt best practices that will delight customers. RAI has a three charter aim of Retail Development, Facilitation and Propagation.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of Maharashtra to be the **first state** to adopt the Model Shops and Establishments Act. This move by the State Government has liberalised retail trade allowing retailers to operate 24/7 in the state. RAI members have welcomed the initiative by the State Government.

Sir, we are writing to seek clarity in regard to **24/7 Store opening permission for retailers in the State.**

As per the Maharashtra Shops & Establishment Act 2017, Opening and Closing Hours of Establishments (Chapter III point 11): *"Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the State Government may, fix, by notification in the Official Gazette, in the public interest, such hours for opening and closing of different classes of establishments and for different premises, shopping complex or mall or for different area or areas and for different period."*

RAI National Council

Avijit Mitra,
Infiniti Retail (Croma)

B A Kodandarama Setty,
Vivek Ltd.

B S Nagesh,
Shoppers Stop Ltd.

Bhaskar Bhat,
Titan Industries Ltd.

Govind Shrikhande,
Shoppers Stop Ltd.

J Suresh,
Arvind Brands

Jamshed Daboo,
Trent Hypermarket Ltd.

Kabir Lumba,
Lifestyle International (P) Ltd.

Kishore Biyani,
Future Group

Krish Iyer,
Walmart India

Noel Tata,
Trent Ltd.

Pranab Barua,
Aditya Birla Retail Ltd.

Rafique Malik,
Metro Shoes Ltd.

Rahul Mehta,
CMAI

Rakesh Biyani,
Future Group

Shashwat Goenka,
Spencer's Retail

Vinay Nadkarni,
Globus Stores Pvt. Ltd.

We understand that a notification No. MSA. 07/2016/C.R. 218/Lab. 10 has been issued to notify the working hours for certain class of establishments. **This implies that all other Shops & Establishments are allowed to operate 24/7.**

However, our members have informed us that they are being approached by law enforcing authorities, who refuse to accept the new act, claiming that there is no particular provision which mentions that retailers are allowed to operate 24/7.

We believe there is a strong need to **issue a clarification by the State Government on the subject under consideration**, thus mitigating the concerns of the retailers in the state. This would avoid complexities and enable retailers to operate 24/7 without altercations with the law enforcing authorities

We await an early revert.

Regards,



Gautam Jain,
Director – Finance & Advocacy,
RAI

Cc:

Shri Praveen Pardeshi,
Hon'ble Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister,
Government of Maharashtra .

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