



Date: 17th July 2014

Shri. Arvind Kumar,
Principal Secretary,
Department of Labour, Govt of Maharashtra,
Mumbai.

Subject: Seeking extension in working hours on 15th, 16th and 17th August 2014

Dear Sir,

Greetings from Retailers Association of India (RAI)!

It is my pleasure to write to you from 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 has a three charter aim of Retail Development, Facilitation and Propagation and conducts various programs aimed at the betterment of employees in the sector.

RAI is the representative body of Retailers in India having over 900 member establishments including large and small retailers in the country and represents over 98000 stores in India. RAI is the body that encourages, develops, facilitates and supports retailers to become modern and adopt best practices that will delight customers.

Modern retailing caters to the changing lifestyle needs of the customer and is based on convenience to customers. You may be aware that end of season discount sales are very useful for consumers in India. Retailers in India attract a huge number of customers during the Independence Day week end.

One worry that is synonymous to large number of customers coming to stores is that sale activities need to be wound up at normal shopping hours while the number of customers have not been catered to properly. Also if most customers come in from 5.30 to 8.30 PM, employees are put to pressure to deal with too many customers at the same time. We believe that an extended shopping hour increased customer convenience and also reduces pressure on employees.

Incidentally, this year, 15th August falls on a Friday and most of the retailers are offering Independence Weekend Sale on 15th, 16th and 17th August 2014. **It would be a great help to the consumers , retailers and retail employees if retailer stores can be allowed extended hours of working up till 12.00 mid night on the days of Independence Weekend sale i.e. 15th August, 16th August and 17th August 2014.**

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We really appreciate sincere efforts taken by your progressive government last year by allowing **retailers to keep their stores open 14 hours a day from October 27th to November 7th on account of festive season**. Notification is attached herewith for your reference.

It is our humble request to kindly consider our request and issue a notification to this effect subject to retailers complying with all the necessary labour compliances. Our delegation will also be pleased to meet you to have a discussion in this reference.

Regards,

For Retailers Association of India,

Gautam Jain
Head – Advocacy & Finance