MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Dr. S.P.M. Civic Centre, Minto Road, New Delhi – 110002

OFFICE ORDER

No.Addl.MHO-2/HQ/2026/D-73 **Dated: 17.07.2026**

Subject: Implementation of *Operational Guidelines for Eating Establishments* under the Health Trade Licensing Framework of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi, in discharge of its statutory functions under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, regulates eating establishments with the objective of ensuring hygienic food handling practices, sanitary conditions and protection of public health. Consequent to De-regulation of Health Trade License, revised **Operational Guidelines for Eating Establishments** was approved by the Hon'ble Mayor to establish a uniform, transparent and risk-based regulatory framework.

The revised Operational Guidelines consolidate the operational requirements, category-wise standards, licensing conditions, inspection methodology, risk assessment parameters and enforcement framework governing eating establishments and henceforth serve as the principal operational document for regulation of eating establishments.

The Hon'ble Mayor, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, has approved adoption of a **risk-based regulatory approach** for regulation of eating establishments. Accordingly, all officers of the Public Health Department shall ensure that the Operational Guidelines are implemented in a phased and structured manner in accordance with the following directions:

Adoption of **risk-based regulatory approach** shall ensure the implementation of Operational Guidelines in a structured manner in accordance with the following directions:

I. Dissemination

i. A Copy of the Operational Guidelines shall be circulated to all Deputy Health Officers, Assistant Public Health Inspectors, Public Health Inspectors and other concerned officers.

ii. The Guidelines shall be uploaded on the official website of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi for information of all stakeholders.

II. Regulatory Compliance

i. Every Deemed Health Trade Licence for eating establishments shall be examined & inspected with reference to the applicable provisions of the Operational Guidelines.

ii. The Operational Guidelines shall be treated as the standard reference document while advising applicants regarding compliance requirements for Deemed Health Trade License.

III. Risk-Based Inspection

i. Inspection planning shall progressively transition from routine inspections to a **risk-based inspection system**, taking into consideration the category of establishment, nature of food operations, public health risk, previous compliance history, complaints, intelligence inputs and other risk parameters prescribed in the Guidelines.

ii. High-risk establishments shall receive greater regulatory attention, while inspections of establishments demonstrating sustained compliance may be undertaken at appropriate intervals in accordance with the approved risk assessment framework.

iii. Surprise inspections may continue to be undertaken wherever warranted in the interest of public health.

IV. Uniform Inspection Procedure

i. All inspections shall be conducted in accordance with the Operational Guidelines to ensure uniformity in interpretation and implementation across all Zones.

ii. Inspection reports shall clearly record observed deficiencies with reference to the relevant provisions of the Operational Guidelines.

V. Regulatory Enforcement

i. Regulatory action shall be guided by the enforcement framework prescribed in the Operational Guidelines and shall be proportionate to the nature and severity of non-compliance.

ii. Wherever deficiencies are capable of rectification, reasonable opportunity shall ordinarily be provided for compliance before initiation of penal actions, except where immediate action is warranted in the interest of public health.

iii. Serious violations posing an imminent risk to public health shall be dealt with promptly in accordance with the provisions of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 and other applicable laws.

VI. Capacity Building

i. Deputy Health Officers shall conduct orientation programmes for all field functionaries to ensure uniform understanding and implementation of the Operational Guidelines.

ii. Difficulties experienced during implementation or suggestions for improvement shall be forwarded to Public Health Headquarters for examination and incorporation during future revisions.

VII. Monitoring

Deputy Health Officers shall periodically review implementation of the Operational Guidelines within their respective Zones and ensure consistency in regulatory practices. Public Health Headquarters shall monitor implementation and issue clarifications or amendments, wherever considered necessary.

The objective of these directions is to establish a transparent, predictable and facilitative regulatory system that promotes voluntary compliance, optimises regulatory resources through risk-based inspections and strengthens protection against food and water-borne diseases through uniform implementation of sanitary and hygienic standards.

A detailed category-specific inspection proforma will be released in due course of time.

This Office Order shall come into force with immediate effect.

Encl.: *Operational Guidelines for Eating Establishments*

Dr. D. Somashekar
Addl. Municipal Health Officer-II
Municipal Corporation of Delhi

Addl. Municipal Health Officer-II

Distribution:

1. All Zonal DHOs/DHO HQs
2. Dir (IT) (For Publishing on MCD Website)

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Commissioner
2. PA to Addl. Commissioner/PH
3. MHO-II
4. MHO-I