



**Secretariat,
Chennai-9.**

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (E2) DEPARTMENT
Letter (Ms) No.185/E2/2016, dated 15.07.2016

From

Dr.J.Radhakrishnan, I.A.S.,
Principal Secretary to Government

To

All Heads of Departments, Health and Family Welfare Department, Chennai.
(with a request to communicate to their subordinates).
All Secretaries to Government, Secretariat, Chennai-09.
The Secretary, Medical Council of India, New Delhi-77.
The Member Secretary, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, Chennai-8.
The Director of Town and Country Planning, Chennai.
The Director, Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services, Chennai-6
The President, Indian Medical Association, Chennai.
The Chief Engineer and Engineer in Chief (Buildings), Chepauk, Chennai-05.
The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities,
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi-1
All Private Hospitals through Director of Medical and Rural Health Services.

Sir/Madam,

Sub: Public Interest Litigation – filed before the Hon'ble High Court, Chennai regarding provision of ramp facility in high rise hospital buildings for easy evacuation of patients in all high rise buildings, Educational Institutions in case of fire – Orders of Hon'ble High Court of Chennai - Implementation - Guidelines for desirable fire safety methods in existing hospital buildings – Issued.

Ref: Orders of Hon'ble High Court of Madras, in W.P.No.30367 of 2016, Dated:21.04.2016.

I am directed to state that a Public Interest Litigation in W.P.No.30367 of 2015 has been filed before the High Court of Madras, praying for provision of ramp facilities in high-rise hospital buildings for easy evacuation of the patients in case of fire.

2. Earlier, when the matter was taken up, the Hon'ble High Court has directed to work out a comprehensive viable proposal in consultation with other respondents. Accordingly, meetings were conducted on various dates with Heads of Departments and other stakeholders. Based on the deliberations

during the meeting certain suggestions emerged and the same was filed before the Hon'ble High Court.

3. Subsequently, the Hon'ble High Court in its order dated 21.04.2016 read above, among others, has observed and ordered as follows:-

“the petitioner expresses satisfaction on the progress made on account of the discussion between the concerned authorities and has filed in Court certain suggestions from his side.

The concerned authorities will now formulate the final policy in this behalf and also indicate the time line for implementation.

The final policy should be put into public domain”

4. As ordered by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, in order to formulate a final policy on the fire safety measures to be provided in new hospital buildings, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority has taken action, considering addition of separate annexure to Development Rules and Development Control Rules for fire safety in hospitals. Further, this Department has issued a “Guidelines for desirable safety methods’ in existing hospital buildings which is Annexed to this order.

5. Further, the hospital authorities are directed to decide on the type of fire safety measures which is best suitable to that particular institution based on the recommendation of the Fire and Rescue Department duly taking into account various factors such as availability of space, size of the buildings, structural stability, location of the hospital along with the suggestions indicated in the annexure. Individual Hospitals shall examine their buildings with technically qualified engineer including structural engineer and carry out the suggestions and submit compliance / action taken report to Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority/Director of Town and Country Planning within a period of 12 months.

6. This order issues with the concurrence of Law, Housing and Urban Development and Home Departments vide its U.O. No.582/S/2016 dated: 24.06.2016, 12904/UD1/2016 dated:30.06.2016 and 46822/Pol.17/2016-2, dated: 11.07.2016 respectively.

Yours faithfully,

*Lawyer
15/7/16*

For Principal Secretary to Government.

Copy to:

The Individual Hospitals.

Private Secretary to Principal Secretary to Government,

Health and Family Welfare Department, Chennai-9.

Private Secretary to Special Secretary to Government,

Health and Family Welfare Department Chennai-9.

Health and Family Welfare Department (J, F and H sections) Department, Chennai-9.

Stock File / Spare Copy/Data Cell.

Annexure

“Guidelines for desirable safety methods” in existing high rise hospital buildings

A. In respect of Existing Approved Hospital Buildings

- i. Provision of ramp, wherever possible, subject to availability of space, structural stability of the building, etc may be provided.
- ii. Wherever required and subject to feasibility, one side setback space can be allowed for providing ramp.
- iii. Wherever there are multiple buildings (Group Developments) in one campus, provision of ramp in one building with connecting corridors to the other buildings, leaving enough head room for snorkel, subject to availability of space, structural stability of the building, etc may be provided.
- iv. In cases of approved existing hospital building, the minimum width of ramp can be 2.1m and minimum gradient of ramp can be 1 in 8.

B. In respect of unapproved hospital buildings constructed before 1st day of July 2007 (Eligible for Regularisation under Section 113C of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971) (This buildings have to satisfy other Development Rules/Development Control Rules parameters issued by Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority/Director of Town and Country Planning)

- i. Provision of ramp, wherever possible, subject to structural stability of the building, etc may be provided.
- ii. Wherever there are multiple buildings in one campus, provision of ramp in one building with connecting corridors to the other buildings, leaving enough head room for snorkel, subject to available of space, structural stability of the building, etc.
- iii. In such cases of existing hospital building, the minimum width of ramp can be 2.1m and minimum gradient of ramp can be 1 in 8.

C. In respect of unapproved hospital buildings constructed after 2007

- i. Provision of ramp, is to be made compulsory.
- ii. Wherever there are multiple buildings in one campus, provision of ramp in one building with connecting corridors to the other buildings, leaving enough head room for snorkel, subject to available of space, structural stability of the building, etc.
- iii. In such cases of existing hospital building, the minimum width of ramp shall be 2.4m and minimum gradient of ramp can be 1 in 10.

D. General suggestions made in respect of all type of existing hospital buildings:

- i. Wherever possible, subject to availability of space, etc. provisions of setback / space all around the building with access to outlets / windows for fire fighting vehicles to operate may be provided.
- ii. If provision of setback as stated above is not possible, minimum of two gates with approach roads on opposite sides of the building have to be provided, wherever possible, taking into account the location of the building, etc. for easy movement of vehicles during an emergency. Emergency / fire exists which are already existing has to be periodically monitored to ensure free movement at any time.
- iii. Wherever possible, fire service lifts with alternate power supply outside the building to be provided. If possible one of the existing lifts can also be converted as Fire Service Lift.
- iv. Wherever possible, pressurization of existing staircases may be provided.
- v. Wherever the fire safety methods mentioned above cannot be provided due to practical, difficulties, alternate fire fighting arrangements as suggested by the Fire Service Department, based on the requirement of a particular hospital building, to be provided. The institutions may consult the fire service Department in such circumstances.
- vi. Minimum of two large 'louvered windows' (with adequate safety provision) may be provided in each floor wherever the building is fully glassed, for easy evacuation of persons, wherever possible.
- vii. Fire fighting training may be given for selected employees. This can be made mandatory. The hospital administration must approach the Fire Service Department for imparting such training.
- viii. Regular mock drills to be conducted every six months is to be made mandatory.
- ix. All Government / Private Hospitals shall display in various places, declaration enlisting the fire safety measures and escape routes provided in the hospital. This declaration should be displayed on a board in Tamil and English. This provision is to be made mandatory.

J.RADHAKRISHNAN
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

/True Copy/

15/7/10
SECTION OFFICER