

SO MET-1 2/11
 26/9/14

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL
 FIRE SERVICE, HOME GUARDS & CIVIL DEFENCE, ODISHA
 NUAPATNA, CUTTACK --753001**

No. C-40/2014/ 4807/FPW

Dated 24-4-2014

To

The Director, Medical Education & Training,
 Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Sub: Fire Prevention/Safety Measures in Hospitals/Clinical Establishments

Sir,

Kindly refer to our telephonic discussion few days ago on the aforementioned subject. As is well known, Hospitals/Clinical Establishments are highly vulnerable to fire hazards, and the recent major fire incident in AMRI Hospital, Kolkata in which a large number of people died, is still fresh in public memory. Hence, there is an imperative need to **strictly enforce fire prevention/safety measures in all Hospitals/Clinical Establishments on a continuing basis.**

2. The provisions of law in this regard are recapitulated hereunder:

2.1. The Odisha Clinical Establishments (Control and Regulation) Act, 1990 and the Rules made thereunder govern the functioning of hospitals/clinical establishments in our State.

2.2. As per Sub-Rule (3) of Rule 3 and Para-2 of Schedule-A of the Odisha Clinical Establishments (Control and Regulation) Rules, 1994, the buildings of a clinical establishment, "shall conform to the conditions laid down in the Factories Act, 1948". Section 38 of the Factories Act, 1948 mandates:

"38. Precautions in case of fire:

(1) In every factory, all practicable measures shall be taken to prevent outbreak of fire and its spread, both internally and externally, and to provide and maintain –

- (a) Safe means of escape for all persons in the event of fire, and
 (b) The necessary equipment and facilities for extinguishing fire.

(2) Effective measures shall be taken to ensure that in every factory all the workers are familiar with the means of escape in case of fire and have been adequately trained in the routine to be followed in such cases."

2.3. Part-IV of the National Building Code of India (NBCI) published by the Bureau of Indian Standards constituted under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 prescribes the fire and life safety measures required to be provided in various classes of buildings/premises including hospitals.

3. Hence, in order to ensure adequate fire prevention/safety measures in all clinical establishments, the following is suggested for your consideration:

3.1. **Government Hospitals:**

Suitable directions may please be issued to Heads of all Government Hospitals to co-ordinate with local PWD/RD/GED/other Engineering Departments concerned to provide/install required fire prevention/safety measures as per the NBCI. All officers of the Fire Service are being directed to extend all necessary assistance and help in this regard. You may prescribe a time schedule within which this task should be completed. Further, you are also requested to direct the Heads of all Government Hospitals to conduct periodical fire safety drills/rehearsals so that the functionality of the firefighting equipment/measures can be tested and all staff will become familiar with their functions in times of fire hazard. The local Fire Station may be involved in the fire safety drills/rehearsals.

3.2. **Private Hospitals:**

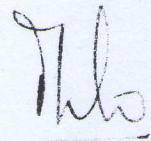
3.2.1. Suitable directions may please be issued to all existing Hospitals/Clinical Establishments possessing **valid licenses** to provide for adequate fire safety/prevention measures as per NBCI and obtain a certificate to that effect from the Fire Prevention Wing of this Directorate General within a period of 2 to 3 months failing which their licenses may revoked as per Section 8 of the Odisha Clinical Establishments (Control and Regulation) Act, 1990 etc.

3.2.2. **Renewal licenses or new licenses** for Hospitals/Clinical Establishments may be issued only after adequate fire safety/prevention measures are provided as per NBCI and a certificate to that effect is issued by the Fire Prevention Wing of this Directorate General.

3.2.3. Suitable directions may also please be issued to all Hospitals/Clinical Establishments to **conduct periodical fire safety drills/rehearsals** so that the functionality of the firefighting equipment/measures can be tested and all staff will become familiar with their functions in times of fire hazard. The local Fire Station may be involved in the fire safety drills/rehearsals.

3.2.4 The officers inspecting the hospitals under section 11 of the Odisha Clinical Establishments (Control and Regulation) Act, 1990 may be advised to ask the management the Hospitals/Clinical Establishments to conduct the fire safety drills/rehearsals **in their presence** and record/report their observations.

Yours faithfully,



20/11/14

(M. Nageswara Rao, IPS)
Addl. D.G. of Police, Fire Service,
Commandant General, Home Guards
& Director, Civil Defence