



Bangalore
1st March 2007

Dear friends,

The preservation of public health is one of the most important functions of civic authority. To regulate public health, the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act 1976 has set clear, enforceable rules to protect the health and safety of workers, consumers, and the population at large. To monitor businesses that have a direct bearing on public health, Schedule X of the Act lists trades that require licence before commencing the trade. Trade licence, is thus an administrative act whereby a Municipality's permission is required to conduct trades in certain goods and services. If persons engaged in any of the schedule trade fail to obtain a trade licence, then, to preserve public health such unlicensed trades are to be summarily shut down. Section 353 of the KMC Act specifies that “ *No place within the limits of the city shall be used for any of the purposes mentioned in Schedule X without a licence obtained from the Commissioner and except in accordance, with condition specified therein.*”

Under the KMC Act, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike is the competent public health authority with a mandate to promote, protect and improve the health of people within its jurisdiction. The duty of the issues of traded licence in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike vest with the Health Department, which issues licence to a broad range of professions, trades, and occupations. They license from health care institutions (e.g., hospitals, nursing homes, laboratories and diagnostic centers) as well as people engaging in trades or occupations that affect the public's health and safety (e.g., barbers, beauty parlor, Dobhi boarding and lodgings places, articles of food and drink). They also license industries that run on motive power in order to regulate the environment issues that such industries can cause.

The process of issue of trade licence in the past was cumbersome leading to complaints of delay and official harassment. The issue of licence was simplified with the introduction of ‘Sarala Udyama Parvanagi’ in the year 2003. This year to coincide with the Suvarna Karnataka celebrations, we have further simplified the trade licences under the ‘Suvarna Arogya Paravanige’ scheme. Under the new scheme, for a limited period each year, the trade licence will be automatically renewed and issued within 24 hours. For new applicants the trade licence will be issued within 7 working days. To cut down on paper work, the number of documents to be filed has been reduced and a simple application form is devised. To avoid ambiguity, trades have been reclassified and the fee specified against them. In the past, if one carried on multiple trades one had to apply separate licence for each of the trade. Now, under the scheme, only one licence will do for multiple trades. Clear guidelines on how apply for renewals and the process for applying for new licences are explained in this booklet. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) in the booklet has answered the details of the scheme in a layman's language. It is suggested that the FAQ should be gone through carefully to understand the benefits of this scheme - ‘Suvarna Arogya Paravanige’.

The licence fee for the trade was last revised in the year 1999. You will appreciate that the licence fee structure must be reasonable to meet our cost of enforcing the duty of securing public health. With the increased revenues from the licence fee, we propose to set up new food tasting laboratories and have arrangements with other food and chemical testing agencies that conduct specialty tests of products that poses health concerns. We also propose to have special squads to check for non-compliance to public health norms. Such frequent checks will help to regulate trade and industry that have a direct bearing on public health. However, this responsibility for protecting the public health system cannot be achieved without the active participation and cooperation of the citizens, public and private sectors. It is this synergy of this partnership will help achieve the mandate for a healthy city.

We urge you to join us in making Bruhat Bangalore the healthiest city to live in. We encourage you to write to us how we can achieve this in the shortest possible time.

Sd/-
Commissioner
Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike

Sd/-
Administrator
Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike