भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
रेल मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(रेलवे बोर्ड RAILWAY BOARD)

(Commercial Circular no. 02 of 2026)

No. 2025/Catering/600/18 New Delhi, dated: as signed

The General Managers
All Indian Railways and PSUs.

The Chairman and Managing Director,
Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation.

Sub: Amendments in Chapter VII of Indian Railway Code for Traffic (Commercial) Department.

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The Chapter VII of Indian Railway Code for Traffic (Commercial) Department is amended accordingly as in Advance Correction slip no. 24 (Copy enclosed).

Kindly acknowledge the receipt.

Digitally signed by
A Ranga Rajan
Date: 14-01-2026
12:54:40

(A Rangarajan)
Dy. Director/Catering
Railway Board

DA: As above.

Copy to:

(i) PCCMs/ All Zonal Railways for information and necessary action

(ii) PFAs/All Indian Railways for information and necessary action.

(iii) Addl. Dy. C&AG of India (Railways), Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

(iv) OSD to MR, EDPG to MR, for kind information of MR please.

(v) PS and EDPG to MoSRs for kind information of MoSRs please.

(vi) PSO to CRB& CEO for kind information of CRB& CEO.

(vii) PSO to MO&BD for kind information of MO&BD.

(viii) Account-II, Railway Board, Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

(ix) Managing Director, Konkan Railway Corporation, New Mumbai-400614.

(x) Director General, National Academy of Indian Railways, Vadodara.

(xi) Director, Indian Railways Institute of Transport Management, Lucknow.

Advance Correction Slip no. 24

Indian Railway Code for Traffic (Commercial) Department [Revised Edition 1993]

Chapter VII may be modified as under:

Catering and Vending Services

Under Para 702	
Existing para 702	Restaurants, refreshment rooms, vending stalls, pantry and dining cars etc. are either run departmentally or worked through licencees. Where licences are given, the principles laid down in the following paragraphs should be observed.
Replaced as	All mobile and static catering units under management of Zonal Railways or IRCTC are either run departmentally or worked through licencees. Where licences are given, the principles laid down in the respective bid document /special conditions of contract stipulated from time to time through policy should be observed.

Under Para 703	
Existing para 703	Catering/vending licences should be awarded by calling applications. Tender system for selection of licencees shall not be followed. Applications should be invited only from professional and reputed caterers through press advertisement.
Replaced as	Catering/vending (catering units, Multi Purpose Stalls/Units) contracts should be awarded through the stipulated allotment process notified through extant policy from time to time.

Under Para 709	
	There shall be no reservation or preference for any

Existing para 709	category in award of contracts and the basic criteria should be capability, reputation, experience and track record of the party to give requisite standard of food and service to the passengers. However, in case of small and roadside stations, preference will be given to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates. Zonal Railways should make out a list of such stations and send a copy of the same to the Board
Replaced as	Reservation in allotment of catering/vending units shall be as per respective policies notified from time to time.

Under Para 710	
Existing para 710	Each successful licensee will be required to pay the licence fee to the Railway. Lump sum licence fee shall be fixed in accordance with instructions issued by the Railway Board from time to time
Replaced as	License fee fixation for catering/vending units shall be done as per respective policies guidelines notified from time to time

Under Para 711	
Existing para 711	The normal tenure of the contract shall be 5 years.
Replaced as	Tenure of license for catering /vending units should be fixed as per respective policy guidelines notified from time to time

Under Para 712	
Existing para 712	After expiry of 5 years, the licence can be further extended subject to the performance of the licensee being satisfactory during the previous agreemental period. The decision regarding renewal shall be taken based on the recommendations of the Screening Committee and shall consist of 3 SAG Officers, in case of large/important units and at least senior scale level for

	other units
Replaced as	There shall be no renewal of license. Specific instructions in this regard, if any, should be followed as per extant policy, issued from time to time

Under Para 713	
Existing para 713	There shall be no ceiling limit of the holding of the units by a licensee.
Replaced as	Ceiling limits on holding of licenses of catering/vending units by a licensee shall be as per extant policy.

Under Para 716	
Existing para 716	Tariff of all the items to be sold by a licensee shall be approved by the Railway Administration.
Replaced as	Tariff of catering/vending items at railway premises shall be approved as per extant policy in vogue from time to time.

Under Para 718	
	(i) A limited number of card passes may be issued to the catering/vending licencees between the station/ stations where the licence is held on the one hand and other stations upto a maximum distance of 125 KMs. on either side for the bearers of the licencee to book orders in advance and also to travel with a train for collecting used utensils etc. (ii) No supervision pass or passes for other purposes, such as for bringing provisions or vegetables, should be issued. (iii) In respect of contractors of dining etc. cars:— (a) card passes may be issued but subject to number being strictly limited having due regard to the need. / The passes should not be available beyond the runs of the respective cars and may be available by all trains.

Existing para 718	(b) for staff serving in the dining cars/pantry cars etc., one second class card pass in favour of the set of staff may be issued. The total number of passes should be determined on the basis of actual number of the sets of staff employed at a time on the run on a particular service. These passes should be so endorsed that they are only available for travel with actual number of the sets of staff employed at a time on the respective pantry cars. (c) In addition, a limited number of separate card passes in second class may be issued to the licencees to enable them to send servants, cooks etc., by train in the event of casualties at out stations. (iv) As regards cheque passes, these may be issued at the discretion of the officers concerned, but the following general principles may be adhered to :— (a) The issue should be strictly for purposes, of railway work as distinct from the licencee's convenience; (b) the issue should be limited to the maximum extent possible; (c) it should be for occasional features of work and should not be to cover any regular features except occasional supervision; (d) the authority to issue such passes should be vested with one authority to be clearly prescribed in respect of each contract
Replaced as	Issue of passes to catering staff/vendors should be as per extant policy in vogue from time to time

Under Para 722	
Existing para 722	Authorised price lists, duly signed, should be exhibited in all refreshment rooms, restaurants, stalls and on each vendor's trolley tray.
Replaced as	Approved price lists, duly signed, should be exhibited in all catering units.

Under Para 723	
Existing para 723	All catering/vending licencees who have to come into contact with their customers, and the staff employed by them, should be subjected to medical examination by railway doctors or recognised medical practitioners before they are appointed and at least twice a year thereafter to ensure that they are free from contagious or infectious diseases. The medical certificate should be mounted on a neat folder and kept readily available for inspection on demand.
Replaced as	Medical fitness tests and issuance of medical fitness certificates to all catering /vending staff shall be done as per prescribed norms issued by Railway Administration from time to time. The medical certificates should be mounted on a neat folder and kept readily available for inspection on demand.

Under Para 725	
Existing para 725	a) Suitable uniforms with distinctive turbans, caps or waist bands must be worn by the staff of all refreshment rooms, restaurants and restaurant and dining cars, which must always be kept clean and tidy. The distinctive colours of turbans, caps or waist bands should be as follows :— VegetarianRefreshment rooms.....Red. Non-Vegetarian Refreshment Rooms .....Blue. Restaurants, Restaurant Cars.... .....White. Indian Style Dining Car ....Yellow. Note.—Where turbans, caps and waist bands are not in use, Railway Administrations may prescribe other suitable distinctive marks in the prescribed colours. (b) Authorised vendors at stalls or on platforms must also wear suitable uniforms, as fixed by Railway Administrations. (c) All bearers and vendors should wear metal badges showing numbers and the name of the contractor.
Replaced as	Staff deployed in catering/vending units must wear uniform and accessories as per the norms and standards issued by Railway Administration from time to time

Under Para 731	
Existing para 731	Specific provision should be made for imposition of fines on licencees. These fines should be sufficiently deterrent and may extend to Rs. 1,000 in any particular case.
Replaced as	Specific provision should be made for imposition of fines on licencees. These fines should be sufficiently deterrent and may extend to the amount defined in policy guidelines or as decided by the Railway Administration.

Under Para 734	
Existing para 734	The instructions in paragraph 719 regarding the ban on the sale of certain articles and regulation of sales generally; in para 720 regarding prohibition of communal denominations; in para 722 regarding price lists; in para 723 and 724 regarding medical examination and verification of the character of staff; in para 725 regarding dress regulations; in paras 726 and 728 regarding supervision and inspection and in para 729 regarding complaints against catering and vending services also apply in the case of departmental catering wherever functioning.
Replaced as	All mandatory instructions regarding management of catering and vending services should also apply, in the case of departmental catering wherever functioning.

Paras 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 714, 721, 736, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743 may be considered deleted.

(*Authority Railway Board 's letter no. 2025/Catering/600/18 dated: 14.01.2026*)