



Reference No.IEIA/1034/2020

11th November 2020

Mr. Darpan Jain, IAS
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Government of India
Room No.288, Udyog Bhawan
New Delhi - 110 107.

Dear Mr. Darpan Jain,

Sub: Requesting Intervention for Misinterpretation of guidelines for re-opening B2B Exhibitions

Reference to the recent announcement by Govt of India to restart B2B Exhibitions in India through the Unlock 5.0 Guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs and the SOPs issued by Ministry of Commerce, we once again thank your good office for all the support extended to our sector.

Further, we would like to draw your kind attention to the matter of misinterpretation of the Guidelines by concerned authorities in Delhi with regard to issuing necessary routine permissions as required for organising exhibitions irrespective of the impact of COVID. We have been informed by one of our member Exhibition Organiser that the Office of DCP (Licensing), Police Station, Defence Colony, New Delhi is not accepting the applications related to routine permissions to conduct B2B Exhibitions in Delhi. The officials in the department are quoting reference to the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) orders dated October 31, 2020 (copy enclosed) which pertains to the restrictions on normal gatherings for functions, weddings etc. at 50% of hall capacity and with an upper ceiling of 200 persons.

However, despite the fact that the said notification issued by DDMA does not anywhere refer to any restrictions on B2B Exhibitions, the DCP (Licensing) office is apparently considering B2B Exhibitions under the same category of 'gatherings'. This appears to be a case of misunderstanding and having misinterpreted B2B Exhibitions under the category of 'gatherings'. This requires immediate correction in order to enable re-opening of B2B Exhibitions in Delhi as per the Unlock 5.0 guidelines and SOPs announced for the sector.

We hereby request your kind intervention and support us in this matter through a letter clarifying the distinction of B2B Exhibitions from other gatherings in light of the Unlock 5.0 Guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs and subsequent SOPs issued by Ministry of Commerce for organising such business exhibitions throughout the country.

We shall be highly grateful to you for this kind support.

Best regards,



S. Balasubramanian
President
Indian Exhibition Industry Association (IEIA)