

27 April 2022

**Shri. Rohit Kumar Singh**  
**Secretary,**  
**Department of Consumer Affairs**  
**Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution**  
**Krishi Bhawan**  
**New Delhi 110001**

**Subject: Need for clarification to prescribe a similar limit as depots for big chain Hypermarket under essential commodities**

Reference: Order dated 3 February on edible oil and oilseeds  
[https://rai.net.in/Advocacy\\_Files/Esscom-order.pdf](https://rai.net.in/Advocacy_Files/Esscom-order.pdf)

**Honorable Secretary,**  
**Greetings from RAI!**

Retailers Association of India (RAI) is the unified voice of Indian retailers working with all the stakeholders for creating the right environment for the growth of the modern retail industry in India. RAI is the premier body of Retailers in India, having around 13667 member establishments, including large and small retailers in the country, having approximately 500,000 stores providing Direct and Indirect employment to 50 million Indians.

We take this opportunity to express retailers concern in regard to the enclosed [order](#) issued under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 wherein there is a stock limit for edible oils and oilseeds put together. As per this order, there is a specific limit of 30 quintals for retail stores and 1000 quintals for hypermarkets.

The essential commodities stocking limits is adversely affecting the retail industry in more ways than one including: -

- The current limit of allowed stockings is grossly inadequate when applied to hypermarkets or large supermarkets.
- These limitations bar the retailers from stocking products beyond the above specified limit of 30 quintals, which in turn causes hindrances in meeting the growing consumer demands faced by the retailers.
- This leads to a constantly rising operational and supply chain costs as businesses such as supermarkets and hypermarkets face a high customer footfall and find it difficult to adhere to the demands.
- These additional costs ultimately damage the industry productivity and drives the prices even higher.



**RAI recommendation**

Sir, we would like to highlight the fact that the retailers are actually improving the distribution and supply of essential commodities by serving a large consumer base as opposed to stifling supply or hoarding of such commodities.

RAI recommends that Retailers having multiple Outlets or Large Departmental Retailers and hypermarkets should be treated as wholesaler /depot and the limit which is applicable for wholesalers and depot i.e., 1000 quintals should be applicable for Retailer of Multiple Outlet or Large Departmental Retailers and hypermarkets.

We hope you will consider our humble submission as we believe that it will surely bear fruitful results in both supporting the industry as well as taking forth the objectives of the government.

Warm Regards,  
For and on Behalf of Retailers Association of India,

Gautam Jain, Director – Advocacy, RAI

**CC :**

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