

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA / BHARAT SARKAR
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS / RAIL MANTRALAYA
(RAILWAY BOARD)**

No.2002/TG-III/531/11

New Delhi, dt.11.03 .2003

**The General Manager,
All Indian Railways.**

**Commercial Circular No.15 of 2003
(Amendment to Commercial Circular No. 53 of 2001)**

Sub: Procurement and supply of "Packaged Drinking Water" on Indian Railway

Ref: Commercial Circular No. 20 of 2001 and 53 of 2001 dated 22.3.2001 and 23.08.2001 respectively.

The supply of quality packaged drinking water to the passengers by the railways has been taken up in the Parliament on several occasions. This has been the concern of Indian Railways for quite some time. With a view to ensure that only good quality packaged drinking water is sold on railway premises and in trains, it was decided through a budget pronouncement 2002-2003 that "Rail Neer" will be manufactured by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation which will set up plants in a phased manner through out the country. The need for setting up the packaged drinking water plants has arisen out of the large consumption of water on railways and the frequent cases of failure in sample checks of various BIS certified brands of packaged drinking water.

As also to ensure that the railway users get safe and quality packaged drinking water, "Rail Neer" is to be the exclusive brand of packaged drinking water to be sold at railway premises and in trains. Accordingly Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) is in the process of manufacture, packaging and marketing of 'Rail Neer' for supply on railway premises including trains.

IRCTC vide letter 2002/IRCTC/RN/MKTG dated 7th February 2003, has advised that to begin with IRCTC will supply Rail Neer to Northern Railway, North Western Railway and Jhansi Division of Central Railway (North Central Railway) for departmental catering units and private catering licensees on these Zonal Railways.

The policy instructions contained in Para 7.1, 7.2 and 7.4 of Railway Board's commercial circular no. 53 of 2001 are therefore amended. Accordingly, Para: 7 of the Commercial Circular is modified as under:-

7.1 " 'Rail Neer' shall be the exclusive brand of packaged drinking water to be procured and sold by the department and non-departmental private catering

licensees on the premises of Indian Railways including trains subject to availability and supply of Rail Neer from IRCTC."

7.2 The sale of packaged drinking water (chilled) on railway premises, including trains will continue to be sold @ Rs.10/- per 1000 ml. bottle.

7.3 In instances of "Rail Neer" not conforming to BIS specifications IRCTC shall be responsible for all complaints and litigations arising out of it and shall indemnify Indian Railways. IRCTC shall also replace such quantities of supply at its own cost.

7.4 In case IRCTC fails to fulfill its commitment in supply of Rail Neer then the zonal railways and the private licencees would be free to procure supply from available BIS approved brands of packaged drinking water as notified by BIS. Any extra expenditure incurred by Railways on this account would be reimbursed by the IRCTC.

7.5 In case IRCTC fails to fulfill the requirement of Packaged Drinking Water on Railway premises in departmental / private licencees and railways is faced with any legal or financial burden the IRCTC will indemnify the railways for the losses suffered by it.

7.6 Railways will continue to conduct inspections and checks through commercial and medical departments including joint inspections under Quality Control and PFA who will ensure that the norms are followed at processing and distribution points for IRCTC, departmental and private licencees as per guidelines contained in Para 9 and 10 of Commercial circular no. 20 of 2001 issued vide letter no. 98/TG-III/631/11 dated 22.3.2001. Samples should be sent to registered laboratories having adequate infrastructure to carry out the tests as per extant rules.

7.7 Railway should also continue to advise BIS regarding any major irregularity detected in supply of packaged drinking water of any manufacturer for appropriate action. Railways should continue to be in touch with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to obtain a list of certified manufacturers who have been given licence to manufacture the packaged drinking water.

Amendment to commercial circular no. 20 of 2001

As and when advise is received from IRCTC for the supply of 'Rail Neer' to other zonal railways then 'Rail Neer' will become the exclusive brand of packaged drinking water on that zonal railway. Consequently Para: 6 of Commercial Circular No. 20 of 2001 issued vide letter No. 98/TG.III/631/11 dated 22.03.01 on procedure for procurement of packaged drinking water stands deleted.

Instructions for new / extension of contracts

The ongoing contracts on Zonal Railways for purchases and supply of packaged drinking water should be allowed to continue till the expiry. However, if

the Railways feel that fresh contracts are to be entered with or extension is to be granted to meet the requirements of packaged drinking water to the travelling public, Zonal Railways must take prior approval from Railway Board. The reference to Board must be sent a minimum of 90 days in advance of the expiry of the contracts so as to give sufficient notice to IRCTC.

Instructions contained in Board's circular no. 20 of 2001 and 53 of 2001 dated 22.3.2001 and 23.08.2001 respectively except the above modification will remain unchanged

This issues with the concurrence of Health, Legal and Finance Directorates of Railway Board.

Receipt of this letter may be acknowledged.


(Mani Anand)
Director (Catering & Tourism)
(Railway Board)

No. 98/TG.III/631/1

New Delhi, Dated // .03.2003

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1. FA&CAO, All Indian Railways (with five spare copies) for information
2. ADAI/Railways (with 36 spare copies).


Of For Financial Commissioner/Railway

Copy to:-

1. DG/RHS, EDFC, F(Comml.), Railway Board for information.
2. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. Bureau of Indian Standards, Manak Bhawan, 9, Bhadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.