

THE LIVELIHOOD REGULATIONS REPORT

AMRITSAR



PREPARED BY



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Centre for Civil Society

© Rights reserved 2008

PREFACE

The Livelihood regulations report aims at documenting the livelihood regulations and barriers in the informal sector. It was conducted in 63 cities across India where the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is being implemented. This project was conducted by Centre for Public Policy Research, Cochin in partnership with Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi and is financed by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), Mumbai.

The report aims to unveil the laws applicable to entry-level professions like Auto Rickshaws, Barber Shops, Dhaba's, Meat Shops and mobile/stationary street vegetable/fruit vendors. These documents will effectively draw public attention to the issues faced by the entry-level professions in the informal sectors

Amritsar is the administrative headquarters of the Amritsar District in the state of Punjab, India. Amritsar is located in the northwestern part of India in the State of Punjab, 32 miles (51 km) east of Lahore, Pakistan.

It is home to the Harimandir Sahib, also known as the Golden Temple, and is the spiritual and cultural center of the Sikh religion. This important Sikh shrine attracts more visitors than the Taj Mahal in Agra and is the number one destination for non-resident Indians (NRI) in the whole of India. This city is known for the incidents of Jallian wala Bagh Massacre in 1919 under British Rule and Operation Bluestar in 1984 under the late Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi.

The main commercial activities include tourism, carpets and fabrics, farm produce, handicrafts, service trades and light engineering. The city is popular and known for its food and culture. Amritsar is also home to Pingalwara, the home for the destitute founded by Bhagat Puran Singh, and Central Khalsa Orphanage, which was once a home to Shaheed Udham Singh, a prominent figure in the Indian independence movement.

The 2001 Indian census reported the population of the city to be over 1,500,000, and that of the entire district to number just over 3,695,077. As of 2007, 85% of the

population in Amritsar are Sikh. The total population of Amritsar is 1,547,695. Males constitute 55% of the population and females 45%. Amritsar has an average literacy rate of 75%, higher than the national average of 59.5%. 15% of the population is under 6 years of age. The main spoken language in Amritsar and in the surrounding villages is the Punjabi dialect of Maajhi, considered to be *Standard Punjabi*. Other languages spoken in the city are English and Hindi. Before partition there was a large population of muslims. Amritsar was one of the most effected city with violence during the partition of India and Pakistan. Amritsar is the strong hold for the Sikhs and all of the Punjab is as well.

Amritsar Municipal Corporation is constituted under the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act 1976. The present study on the livelihood regulations in the limits of Amritsar Municipal Corporation covers dhaba, cobblers, cycle rickshaw, barber shop and meat Shop.

AMRITSAR

The sectors chosen for the study are:

- 1. Dhabha**
- 2. Cobblers**
- 3. Cycle Rickshaw**
- 4. Meat Shop**
- 5. Barber Shop**

The trades in Amritsar are regulated by the Municipal Corporation of Amritsar. As per the provisions provided in the section 343 of the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act, 1976. Only one license is required to be obtained for license in one premises where the storage of various items is made and the license fee is to be remitted as per the schedule (Government vide memo no. 241-A-US L G-11-82/2163 dated 27-4-82 & No. 735-A-US L G-(11)-82/3414 dated 1-6-82) In case of manufacturing units, if it is storing manufactured articles in the same premises, no separate license for storage is required. In case of the manufacturing unit which maintaining go downs separately, license for the same is required to be taken and the fee for the said item has to be paid. Separate licenses will be required for such go down, if located at different places. Licenses need to be obtained before or on 30th April of every year.

The different types of licenses issued by the health department (license department) of Municipal Corporation of Amritsar are:-

1. Groceries and Items of domestic use
2. Chemicals and paints
3. Industrial articles
4. Inflammable articles
5. Offensive articles
6. Licenses issued for articles under section 343 (1) (B) of Punjab municipal corporation act, 1976.
7. Licenses issued for articles under part I of section 343 (1) of Punjab municipal corporation act, 1976.

Regarding the fees of all licenses in Amritsar Corporation, in addition to the license fees for specific items, the conservancy fee is charged from all the persons to whom the licenses are issued, and it depends upon the number of persons working in the premises. It is also mentioned in the fee schedule.

The trade wise details are as follows:

I DHABA:

The license is issued only to the dhaba's and no license is issued/ required for the street food vendors. (Street food vendors are those persons who sell the food articles by moving here and there on the road side). There is no other concept of food courts present in the Amritsar. One has to get a license from the Amritsar Corporation for running a dhabha as per the U/S 343 of Punjab Municipal Corporation Act 1976.

Licensing Procedure:

The person has to apply in the prescribed form costing around Rs.10. and the person will have to get the NO-Objection certificate from neighbors as well as M.T.P, Fire Brigade, House tax and WSS departments.

No Objection certificates:

No Objection Certificate from M.T.P (Municipal Town Planning):

For a commercial establishment, a building plan is required to be sanctioned from Municipal Corporation and before occupation and to start commercial business, a completion certificate as per under section 272(2) of Punjab Municipal Corporation Act 1976 is required.

Before issuing the N.O.C (NO-Objection certificate) the site inspection will be conducted by the area building inspector. The status of building, sanction of the building plan, fees paid etc will be checked by the area building inspector at the time of inspection. The No Objection Certificates pertaining to the electric connections to the commercial establishments is issued by the Assistant Town Planner within one week, though there is no time schedule. There is no fixed validity period for the NOC'S and the state Electric city Board checks the NOC issued by corporation before issuing electric connection. There is no prescribed Performa for N.O.C after issuing the NOC, no physical verification is done.

Before issuing the NO-Objection certificate the following documents must be submitted:

1. Sale deed in support of the ownership
2. Sanctioned building plan/receipt of composition fee paid in respect of the building for which NOC is required, if it newly constructed
3. Before issuing N.O.C. Rs.1000/- as the prescribed fee is realized

No Objection certificate from Fire Brigade:

The No Objection certificate from Fire Brigade is issued as per the provisions of ISI-2190(Indian Standard Industries rules). A Building Plan must be submitted in advance and no need to pay any fees for this NO-Objection Certificate. The Premises will be verified physically as per the Guidelines of ISI and National Building Code. In Amritsar 15 officers are employed for this physical verification. The Requirement of premise is as per the ISI and National

Building Code Provisions. 7-10 days are required to issue NO-Objection certificate. The Validity of NO-Objection certificate is one year. After issuing the N.O.C, the premise will be checked by the department once in a year.

No –Objection certificate from Neighbours:

It is collected from the neighbours in the shape of their signatures with complete address in prescribed Performa

No Objection Certificate from House tax:

Nothing due Certificate to certify that the applicant have no house tax standing unpaid on the property is required. This copy will be sent to the applicant too. After that process, the department will check the records and N.O.C will be given accordingly.

No Objection certificate from Water Supply and Sewage Department:

All the consumers who have the approved connection of water and sewage can get the No Objection Certificate by simply applying on a paper in application and attached copy of water and sewage bill at any time. No charges are taken from the applicant by the department for issuing it. Before issuing the certificate, the account is checked by the assistant engineer/field staff at the zonal office. On the basis of documents, No –Objection Certificate is issued.

Documents Required:

1. Filled form
2. No Objection Certificate from neighbors, Municipal Town Planners, Fire Brigade, House Tax and Water Supply and Sewage Department.

Verification:

The License Inspector will make the physical verification and also checks the premises prior to the issue of license. The officers will visit to the site and they will enquire from the neighbours for any hindrance /nuisance and also to get the verification and signatures along with complete address of the neighbours.

License Fees:

A fee of Rs.50, Prevention of Food Adulteration Act fee Rs.12/- and Conservancy fee Rs.100/-

Fees Remittance:

The fees remittance can be done in the license department itself.

Issue of License:

The License will be issued after the submission of documents and after completing the formalities from the license inspector, reports from Municipal town planners and fire brigade

License Duration:

One year.

License Renewal:

The person has to submit the filled form and has to produce the previous license receipt. The fees are equal to new license. But in the month of March, it will be 10% less, and from April to June, it will be 25% and July to September 50% and from October 100% penalty will be charged. The applicant does not have to submit again the No-Objection Certificate. Persons who get licenses renewed before 30th March shall be allowed rebate of 10% in license fee.

Other Formalities:

1. The license is to be checked by the staff of licensing department.
2. Blank copy of license can not be provided .It will be provided only after adopting the Rules and Regulations of the Municipal Corporation.
3. After the issue of license, there is no need to visit the physical verification or checking the premises after the issue of license.
4. No further checking will be there after the issue of license.

Penalty:

Licenses must be obtained before or on 30th April of every year. In case of failure penalty shall be recovered as under:-

Month	amount
30 th June	25%
30 th September	50%
1 st October onwards.	100 %

II.COBBLERS:

Under Section 343 of Punjab Municipal Corporation Act 1976, Amritsar Municipal Corporation is issuing licenses. The procedures are same except the license fees. Part I of Section 343 (1)" of Punjab M.C. Act says that the cobblers can be a person works alone manually.

Licensing Procedure:

In Amritsar licenses are issued Under Section 343 of Punjab Municipal Corporation Act 1976. As per the information provided by the Amritsar Municipal Corporation, Cobblers have exactly the same procedures of dhaba except the fees. For a license in Amritsar, the person has to apply in the prescribed form costing around Rs.10.and the person will have to get the NO-Objection

certificate from neighbors as well as Municipal Town Planning, Fire Brigade, House tax and Water Supply and sewerage departments.

No Objection certificates:

No Objection Certificate from M.T.P (Municipal Town Planning):

Generally for a commercial establishment, a building plan is required to be sanctioned from Municipal Corporation and before occupation and to start commercial business, a completion certificate as per u/s 272(2) of PMC Act 1976 is required. But for cobblers, Building plan and site inspection is not needed for getting a No Objection Certificate from Municipal town Planning Department.

Before issuing the NO-Objection certificate the following documents must be submitted:

1. Sale deed in support of the ownership
2. Before issuing N.O.C. Rs.1000/-as the prescribed fee is realized

No Objection Certificate from House tax:

Nothing due Certificate to certify that the applicant have no house tax standing unpaid on the property is required. This copy will be sent to the applicant too. After that process, the department will check the records and N.O.C will be given accordingly.

No Objection certificate from Water Supply and Sewage Department:

All the consumers who have the approved connection of water and sewage can get the No Objection Certificate by simply applying on a paper in application and attached copy of water and sewage bill at any time. No charges are taken from the applicant by the department for issuing it. Before issuing the certificate, the account is checked by the assistant engineer/field staff at the zonal office. On the basis of documents, No –Objection Certificate is issued.

Documents Required:

1. Filled form
2. No Objection Certificate from neighbors, Municipal Town Planners, Fire Brigade, House Tax and Water Supply and Sewage Department.

Verification:

The License Inspector will make the physical verification and also checks the premises prior to the issue of license. The officers will visit to the site and they will enquire from the neighbours for any hindrance /nuisance and also to get the verification and signatures along with complete address of the neighbours.

License Fees:

Part I of Section 343 (1)" of Punjab M.C. Act: it says that cobblers can be a person works alone manually. So as per the license schedule, he is exempted from the fees. But the license is given and he is charged with Conservancy Fees by the municipal corporation. In addition it is worth to mention that "Conservancy Fees" is charged for issuing any license to any trade by the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

The rates of license fee under Second Schedule, part I of Section 343(1) of Punjab Municipal Corporation Act, 1976.

(a)	Where a person works alone Manually	Exempted
(b)	Unregistered factories or Processing house or Manufacturers	Rs.50/-P.A.
(c)	Registered factories or Processing house or Manufacturers where more than 10 and up to 15 persons are engaged.	Rs.150/-P.A
(d)	Registered factories or	Rs.250/-P.A
	Manufacturers where more than 15 but up to 50 persons are engaged	Processing house or
(e)	Registered factories or	Rs.500/-P.A
	Processing house or Manufacturers where more than 50 persons are working.	

Fees Remittance:

The fees remittance can be done in the license department itself.

Issue of License:

The License will be issued after the submission of documents and after completing the formalities from the license inspector, reports from Municipal town planners and fire brigade

License Duration:

One year.

License Renewal:

The person has to submit the filled form and has to produce the previous license receipt. The fees are equal to new license. But in the month of March, it will be 10% less, and from April to June, it will be 25% and July to September 50% and from October 100% penalty will be charged. The applicant does not have to submit again the No-Objection Certificate. Persons who get licenses renewed before 30th March shall be allowed rebate of 10% in license fee.

Other Formalities:

1. The license is to be checked by the staff of licensing department.
2. Blank copy of license can not be provided .It will be provided only after adopting the Rules and Regulations of the Municipal Corporation.
3. After the issue of license, there is no need to visit the physical verification or checking the premises after the issue of license.
4. No further checking will be there after the issue of license.

Penalty:

Licenses must be obtained before or on 30th April of every year. In case of failure penalty shall be recovered as under:-

Month	amount
30 th June	25%
30 th September	50%
1 st October onwards.	100 %

III. MEAT SHOP:

Under Section 343 of Punjab Municipal Corporation Act 1976, Amritsar Municipal Corporation is issuing licenses. The procedures are same except the license fees. One has to get a license from the Amritsar Corporation for running a meat shop as per the section 343 of Punjab Municipal Corporation Act 1976.

Licensing Procedure:

The person has to apply in the prescribed form costing around Rs.10.and the person will have to get the NO-Objection certificate from neighbors as well as M.T.P, Fire Brigade, House tax and WSS departments.

No Objection certificates:**No Objection Certificate from M.T.P (Municipal Town Planning):**

For a commercial establishment, a building plan is required to be sanctioned from Municipal Corporation and before occupation and to start commercial business, a completion certificate as per u/s 272(2) of PMC Act 1976 is required.

Before issuing the N.O.C (NO-Objection certificate) the site inspection will be conducted by the area building inspector. The status of building, sanction of the building plan, fees paid etc will be checked by the area building inspector at the time of inspection. The No Objection Certificates pertaining to the electric connections to the commercial establishments is issued by the Assistant Town Planner within one week, though there is no time schedule. There is no fixed validity period for the NOC'S and the state Electric city Board checks the NOC issued by corporation before issuing electric connection. There is no prescribed Performa for N.O.C after issuing the NOC, no physical verification is done.

Before issuing the NO-Objection certificate the following documents must be submitted:

1. Sale deed in support of the ownership
2. Sanctioned building plan/receipt of composition fee paid in respect of the building for which NOC is required, if it newly constructed
3. Before issuing N.O.C. Rs.1000/-as the prescribed fee is realized

No Objection certificate from Fire Brigade:

The No Objection certificate from Fire Brigade is issued as per the provisions of ISI-2190(Indian Standard Industries rules). A Building Plan must be submitted in advance and no need to pay any fees for this NO-Objection Certificate. The Premises will be verified physically as per the Guidelines of ISI and National Building Code. In Amritsar 15 officers are employed for this physical verification. The Requirement of premise is as per the ISI and National Building Code Provisions. 7-10 days are required to issue NO-Objection certificate. The Validity of NO-Objection certificate is one year. After issuing the N.O.C, the premise will be checked by the department once in a year.

No –Objection certificate from Neighbours:

It is collected from the neighbours in the shape of their signatures with complete address in prescribed Performa

No Objection Certificate from House tax:

Nothing due Certificate to certify that the applicant have no house tax standing unpaid on the property is required. This copy will be sent to the applicant too. After that process, the department will check the records and N.O.C will be given accordingly.

No Objection certificate from Water Supply and Sewage Department:

All the consumers who have the approved connection of water and sewage can get the No Objection Certificate by simply applying on a paper in application and attached copy of water and sewage bill at any time. No charges are taken from the applicant by the department for issuing it. Before issuing the certificate, the account is checked by the assistant engineer/field staff at the zonal office. On the basis of documents, No –Objection Certificate is issued.

Documents Required:

1. Filled form
2. No Objection Certificate from neighbors, Municipal Town Planners, Fire Brigade, House Tax and Water Supply and Sewage Department.

Verification:

The License Inspector will make the physical verification and also checks the premises prior to the issue of license. The officers will visit to the site and they will enquire from the neighbours for any hindrance /nuisance and also to get the verification and signatures along with complete address of the neighbours.

License Fees:

The fees are as follows:

POULTRY FARMS

I	having 50-250 bird	Rs.50/-
II	251 to 1000 birds	Rs.100/-
III	having 1001 and above	Rs.250/-
	Bones, bone meat or bone powder	150-00
	Fins	150-00
	Fish (dried)	150-00
	Flax	150-
	Hides (dried)	150-0
	Hides (raw)	150-00
	Hoofs	150-00
	Horns	150-00
	Leather	150-00
	Offal	150-00
	Skins	150-00
	Tallow	150-00

Fees Remittance:

The fees remittance can be done in the license department itself.

Issue of License:

The License will be issued after the submission of documents and after completing the formalities from the license inspector, reports from Municipal town planners and fire brigade

License Duration:

One year.

License Renewal:

The person has to submit the filled form and has to produce the previous license receipt. The fees are equal to new license. But in the month of March, it will be 10% less, and from April to June, it will be 25% and July to September 50% and from October 100% penalty will be charged. The applicant does not have to submit again the No-Objection Certificate. Persons who get licenses renewed before 30th March shall be allowed rebate of 10% in license fee.

Other Formalities:

1. The license is to be checked by the staff of licensing department.
2. Blank copy of license can not be provided .It will be provided only after adopting the Rules and Regulations of the Municipal Corporation.
3. After the issue of license, there is no need to visit the physical verification or checking the premises after the issue of license.
4. No further checking will be there after the issue of license.

Penalty:

Licenses must be obtained before or on 30th April of every year. In case of failure penalty shall be recovered as under:-

Month	amount
30 th June	25%
30 th September	50%
1 st October onwards.	100 %

IV BARBER SHOP:

Under Section 343 of Punjab Municipal Corporation Act 1976, Amritsar Municipal Corporation is issuing licenses. For barber Shop, the procedures are same of dhaba's. But at present one is free to conduct the trade of barber shop in Amritsar. They don't have to get the license and the corporation is not issuing any license for them. The procedures for the barber shop are same as that of meat shop, dhabas etc. The procedures are as follows:

Licensing Procedure:

The person has to apply in the prescribed form costing around Rs.10.and the person will have to get the NO-Objection certificate from neighbors as well as Municipal Town Planning , Fire Brigade, House tax and WSS departments.

No Objection certificates:

No Objection Certificate from M.T.P (Municipal Town Planning):

For a commercial establishment, a building plan is required to be sanctioned from Municipal Corporation and before occupation and to start commercial business, a completion certificate as per u/s 272(2) of PMC Act 1976 is required.

Before issuing the N.O.C (NO-Objection certificate) the site inspection will be conducted by the area building inspector. The status of building, sanction of the building plan, fees paid etc. will be checked by the area building inspector at the time of inspection. The No Objection Certificates pertaining to the electric connections to the commercial establishments is issued by the Assistant Town Planner within one week, though there is no time schedule. There is no fixed validity period for the NOC'S and the state Electric city Board checks the NOC issued by corporation before issuing electric connection. There is no prescribed Performa for N.O.C after issuing the NOC, no physical verification is done.

Before issuing the NO-Objection certificate the following documents must be submitted:

1. Sale deed in support of the ownership
2. Sanctioned building plan/receipt of composition fee paid in respect of the building for which NOC is required, if it newly constructed
3. Before issuing N.O.C. Rs.1000/-as the prescribed fee is realized

No Objection certificate from Fire Brigade:

The No Objection certificate from Fire Brigade is issued as per the provisions of ISI-2190(Indian Standard Industries rules). A Building Plan must be submitted in advance and no need to pay any fees for this NO-Objection Certificate. The Premises will be verified physically as per the Guidelines of ISI and National Building Code. In Amritsar 15 officers are employed for this physical verification. The Requirement of premise is as per the ISI and National Building Code Provisions. 7-10 days are required to issue NO-Objection certificate. The Validity of NO-

Objection certificate is one year. After issuing the N.O.C, the premise will be checked by the department once in a year.

No –Objection certificate from Neighbours:

It is collected from the neighbours in the shape of their signatures with complete address in prescribed Performa

No Objection Certificate from House tax:

Nothing due Certificate to certify that the applicant have no house tax standing unpaid on the property is required. This copy will be sent to the applicant too. After that process, the department will check the records and N.O.C will be given accordingly.

No Objection certificate from Water Supply and Sewage Department:

All the consumers who have the approved connection of water and sewage can get the No Objection Certificate by simply applying on a paper in application and attached copy of water and sewage bill at any time. No charges are taken from the applicant by the department for issuing it. Before issuing the certificate, the account is checked by the assistant engineer/field staff at the zonal office. On the basis of documents, No –Objection Certificate is issued.

Documents Required:

1. Filled form
2. No Objection Certificate from neighbors, Municipal Town Planners, Fire Brigade, House Tax and Water Supply and Sewage Department.

Verification:

The License Inspector will make the physical verification and also checks the premises prior to the issue of license. The officers will visit to the site and they will enquire from the neighbours for any hindrance /nuisance and also to get the verification and signatures along with complete address of the neighbours.

License Fees:

No information regarding this is available as no licenses are issued now.

Fees Remittance:

The fees remittance can be done in the license department itself.

Issue of License:

The License will be issued after the submission of documents and after completing the formalities from the license inspector, reports from Municipal town planners and fire brigade

License Duration:

One year.

License Renewal:

The person has to submit the filled form and has to produce the previous license receipt. The fees are equal to new license. But in the month of March, it will be 10% less, and from April to June, it will be 25% and July to September 50% and from October 100% penalty will be charged. The applicant does not have to submit again the No-Objection Certificate. Persons who get licenses renewed before 30th March shall be allowed rebate of 10% in license fee.

Other Formalities:

1. The license is to be checked by the staff of licensing department.
2. Blank copy of license can not be provided .It will be provided only after adopting the Rules and Regulations of the Municipal Corporation.
3. After the issue of license, there is no need to visit the physical verification or checking the premises after the issue of license.
4. No further checking will be there after the issue of license.

Penalty:

Licenses must be obtained before or on 30th April of every year. In case of failure penalty shall be recovered as under:-

Month	amount
30 th June	25%
30 th September	50%
1 st October onwards.	100 %

V.CYCLE RICKSHAW:

Cycle Rickshaw is governed as per the directions provided in "The Punjab Rickshaws (Regulation of license) Act, 1976. As per the Act "cycle- rickshaw" means a three- wheeled cycle-rickshaw driven by a manual labour and includes all its components and accessories. There are no city permits issued and there is no restriction on the number of cycle rickshaw at a particular time and no city permit is required. Only License is required.

Municipal Corporation defines Permits as the license on which the photograph of the Cycle rickshaw Puller is pasted. In Amritsar, anywhere in Punjab every year, a token number and a license /permit on which the photograph of the cycle rickshaw puller is pasted is issued to the

Cycle rickshaw puller and no other city permit is needed in Punjab and there is no restriction on the number of cycle rickshaw at a particular time and no city permit is required.

Procedure for Cycle Rickshaw License:

The Application form will be given to the Rickshaw puller owner, by the Municipal Corporation on which Performa is printed. The rickshaw puller is required to submit the application form with two photographs attested by the Councilor/ M.L.A/Gazetted officer and the medical fitness certificate must be collected from an M.B.B.S. doctor. If there are numbers of applications, then it could take two-three days to issue the license.

Documents Required:

1. Application form with two photographs attested by the Councilor/ M.L.A/Gazetted officer
2. Medical fitness certificate from the M.B.B.S. doctor.

License Fees:

The annual fee for the cycle rickshaw license is Rs.50.

License Duration:

The validity of license is one year from 1st April to 31st march.

Issue of License:

If there are numbers of applications, then it could take two-three days to issue the license.

License Renewal:

The validity of license is one year from 1st April to 31st march. The documents required for the renewal of the license are same as that of new one. The procedure for the renewal of license is also the same as that of the new one. The period required for the renewal of license is same as that of the new one.

Penalty:

There is no such restriction regarding the number of license to be issued in a fiscal year. Regarding the penalty for the cycle rickshaw pullers, if a cycle rickshaw is caught without a valid license then the rickshaw will be put in the store room and released only after getting the clearance from the department and depositing the settled fee. As per the Act, the person can be punishable with imprisonment which can extend to three months. The same is the case of the rickshaw of institution which is not painted in yellow.

Conditions:

1. There is no such restriction regarding the number of license to be issued in a fiscal year.
2. As per the Act, cycle rickshaw has to be plied by the owner himself. No licenses can be granted or renewed in contradictory to this. But it can be granted to a widow or disabled person if this is the only sources of his/her livelihood.
3. Municipal Corporation can grant or renew license to an institution to be plied through any person. But the rickshaw can not be used for hire. Rather it should be used only for its own conveyance and transportation requirements. In that case the body of the cycle- rickshaw must be painted yellow. As per the amendment of the cycle rickshaws act in 191978, the licenses to widows, disabled and institution can be based on their needs. But the number of such licenses in one case shall not exceed five.
4. The conditions for this license for a rickshaw puller are:
 - (a) Must be a healthy person
 - (b) Must be a bell on the rickshaw
 - (c) Must be a roof for the rickshaw
 - (d) Must be a mudguard on the rare tyre of the cycle rickshaw and there must be a reflector at the back of the cycle rickshaw which should shine at the night.

FINDINGS FROM THE STUDY :**General Findings:**

1. The trades in Amritsar are regulated by the Municipal Corporation of Amritsar as per the provisions provided in the section 343 of the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act, 1976. Only one license is required to be obtained for license in one premises where the storage of various items is made and the license fee is to be remitted as per the schedule
2. The Whole Punjab is following the same procedure
3. NOC which is required to be taken from municipal town planner (MTP) office is Rs.1000/- one time, but the license which is issued by the corporation after the submission of NOC, is worth Rs.50-200 for different categories. This is surprising
4. Regarding the fees of all licenses in Amritsar Corporation, in addition to the license fees for specific items, the conservancy fee is charged from all the persons to whom the licenses are issued, and it depends upon the number of persons working in the premises. It is also mentioned in the fee schedule
5. Officials in the Municipal Corporation are not clear on the provisions of RTI; moreover, they are reluctant to provide information
6. Even basic information, is tried not to be disclosed
7. Officers dealing with RTI applications, at the very first instance ask i.e. "Why the information is asked?" (verbally) Under the act they can't ask
8. Intention behind the applicability of the RTI act is wrong and they take it as a serious burden over and above their routine office work

9. In a notice issued, under the RTI reply to the interns dated 20/08/2007, Department of Medical Officer of Health (MOH) said that the interns have paid only Rs.10 for seeking nine information. Which under the Act they can't say! And the interns are required to deposit the total fee of Rs.60-00 in order to get the information
10. NOC which is required to be taken from municipal town planner (MTP) office is Rs.1000/- one time, but the license which is issued by the corporation after the submission of NOC, is worth Rs.50-200 for diff. categories. This is surprising
11. The procedure for cobblers, dhabas and meat shops are same

DHABAS:

1. The license is issued only to the dhabas and no license is issued/ required for the street food vendors. (Street food vendors are those persons who sells there food articles by moving here and there on the road side).There is no other concept of food courts present in the Amritsar. One has to get a license from the Amritsar Corporation for running a dhabha as per the U/S 343 of Punjab Municipal Corporation Act 1976
2. In Amritsar, to get a license, the person must have to get the NO-Objection Certificate from neighbors as well as from the departments of Municipal Town Planner, Fire Brigade, House tax and Water Supply and Sewerage Department. The procedure for this N.O.C is more complicating than the license itself
3. No –Objection certificate from Fire Brigade is obtained as per the provisions of ISI-2190. Building Plan must be submitted and the Premises will be verified physically as per the Guidelines of ISI and National Building Code. 15 officers are employed for this physical verification and after issuing the N.O.C, the premise will be checked by the department, once in a year. But from the field study, it is found from the verbal interaction of the interns that that neither of the officers have the copy of this guidelines an in hand and it seems that they had obtained the copy of the guidelines from the fire department of some other city . So the authenticity of the knowledge base of the verification is being forced to be questioned
4. Rs.1000/- is charged for issuing the No Objection Certificate from the M.T.P. department .This is in addition to the fees for license for the trade, whereas the license fee is only Rupees Hundred and sixty two rupees, which consists of the fee of Rs.50 , Prevention of Food Adulteration Act fee Rs.12/- and Conservancy fee Rs.100
5. The License Inspector will make the physical verification and also checks the premises prior to the issue of license. The officers will visit to the site and they will enquire from the neighbours for any hindrance /nuisance and also to get the verification and signatures along with complete address of the neighbours
6. As per section 309, When the city or any part thereof is visited or threatened by an outbreak of any dangerous disease the commissioner may, by public notice, restrict the sale or preparation of any article of food or drink for human consumption specified in the notice or the sale of flesh of any description of animal so specified
7. Regarding the renewal, every year before the 30th of April, licenses have to be renewed with the submission of the filled form and previous license receipt. The fees are equal to new license. The person who gets the license renewed before 30th march shall be allowed a rebate of 10 % in the license fee (subject to the increase in the fee). If the applicant get his license renewed before or on 30th April of every year. In case of failure penalty(in excess of the license fee) shall be recovered as under:-

Up to 30 th June	25%
Up to 30 th September	50%
From 1 st October onwards.	100%

COBBLERS:

1. Part I of Section 343 (1)" of Punjab M.C. Act: it says that cobblers can be a person works alone manually. The procedures for them are same, except the license fees. As per the license schedule, he is exempted from the fees but the license is given and he is charged with some Conservancy Fees of Rs.100 by the municipal corporation. Though there is no license fees, he has to pay the conservancy fees which is mandatory for all trades and He also has to pay Rs.1000/- before getting N.O.C. from M.T.P department as the prescribed fee

BARBER SHOP:

1. One is free to conduct the trade of barber shop in Amritsar.They don't have to get the license and the corporation is not issuing any license for them

MEAT SHOP:

1. The procedures are same, except the license fees. The fees are Rs.150

CYCLE RICKSHAW:

1. Cycle Rickshaw is governed as per the directions provided in "The Punjab Rickshaws (Regulation of license) Act, 1976
2. As per the Act "cycle- rickshaw" means a three- wheeled cycle-rickshaw driven by a manual labour and includes all its components and accessories
3. Municipal Corporation defines Permits as the license on which the photograph of the Cycle rickshaw Puller is pasted. In Ludhiana as anywhere in Punjab every year, a token number and a license /permit on which the photograph of the cycle rickshaw puller is pasted is issued to the Cycle rickshaw puller and no other city permit is needed in Punjab and there is no restriction on the number of cycle rickshaw at a particular time and no city permit is required
4. As per the Act, cycle rickshaw has to be plied by the owner himself. No licenses can be granted or renewed in contradictory to this. But it can be granted to a widow or disabled person if this is the only sources of his/her livelihood
5. Municipal Corporation can be grant or renew license to an institution to be plied through any person. But the rickshaw can not be used for hire. Rather it should be used only for its own conveyance and transportation requirements. In that case the body of the cycle- rickshaw must be painted yellow
6. As per the amendment of the cycle rickshaws act in 191978, the licenses to widows, disabled and institution can be based on their needs. But the number of such licenses in one case shall not exceed five
7. Regarding the penalty for the cycle rickshaw pullers, if a cycle rickshaw is caught without a valid license then the rickshaw will be put in the store room and released

only after getting the clearance from the department and depositing the settled fee. As per the Act, the person can be punishable with imprisonment which can extend to three months. The same is the case of the rickshaw of institution which is not painted in yellow

8. The conditions for this license for a rickshaw puller are (a) must be a healthy person (b) Must be a bell on the rickshaw (c) Must be a roof for the rickshaw (d) must be a mudguard on the rare tyre of the cycle rickshaw and there must be a reflector at the back of the cycle rickshaw which should shine at the night

Areas which need reforms:

1. For getting a No –Objection certificate from Municipal Town Planning Department, building plan is required to be sanctioned from Municipal Corporation and before occupation and to start commercial business, a completion certificate as per u/s 272(2) of PMC Act 1976 is required
2. Before issuing the N.O.C, Sale deed in support of ownership, Sanctioned building plan/receipt of composition fee paid in respect of the building for which NOC is required, if it newly constructed
3. The rickshaw puller is required to submit the application form with two photographs attested by the Councilor/M.L.A/gazzeted officer and after getting medical fitness certificate from the M.B.B.S. doctor. This can be a room for corruption and the rickshaw pullers can be exploited by the councilors and other officers
4. Regarding the penalty for the cycle rickshaw pullers, if a cycle rickshaw is caught without a valid license then the rickshaw will be put in the store room and released only after getting the clearance from the department and depositing the settled fee. This sort of penalty cannot be justified