

LAWS OF GUYANA

BAKERIES (HOURS OF WORK) ACT

CHAPTER 99:07

**Act**

**4 of 1946**

Amended by

7 of 1949

23 of 1951

16 of 1958

12 of 1967

4 of 1972

19 of 1977

19 of 1994

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## CHAPTER 99:07

## BAKERIES (HOURS OF WORK) ACT

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

## SECTION

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1953 Ed.  
c. 120

4 of 1946

**An Act to regulate the working hours in bakeries and for purposes connected therewith.**

[23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 1946]

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Bakeries (Hours of Work) Act.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act—

“bakery” means any premises in which a person, otherwise than in pursuance of a contract of service, engages by

way of trade or for purposes of gain in the manufacture of bread or flour confectionery or in any other work incidental thereto;

“day” means the period between midnight of one night and midnight of the following night;

“occupier of a bakery” means a person who, otherwise than in pursuance of a contract of service, engages, by way of trade or for purposes of gain, in a bakery in the manufacture of bread or flour confectionery or in any other work incidental thereto;

“week” means the period between midnight on Saturday night and midnight on the following Saturday night;

“work incidental to the manufacture of bread or flour confectionery” includes slicing, wrapping, or otherwise preparing bread or flour confectionery for sale or distribution and, where the same persons are employed in manufacture and in distribution, includes work in or incidental to distribution.

Restriction of working hours in bakeries. [23 of 1951 19 of 1994]

3. Subject to sections 4 and 5, no person shall manufacture bread or flour confectionery in any bakery or engage in any work incidental thereto—

- (a) on any Sunday, except in the work of setting sponge; or
- (b) for more than sixty hours in any week.

Power of Minister to make orders modifying the restrictions imposed by section 3.

4. (1) The Minister may, subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, by order, direct that the restrictions imposed by section 3 shall not apply, or shall apply subject to such modifications as may be specified in the order, in respect of employment in bakeries—

- 
- (a) in dough-making;
  - (b) in oven-firing;
  - (c) in work undertaken by reason of a breakdown of machinery or plant, or other unforeseen emergency;
  - (d) in work for the purpose of providing supplies for public holidays and feast days;
  - (e) in respect of employment in any bakery in work for the purpose of meeting a sudden and unexpected demand for bread;
  - (f) where the occupier of a bakery is acquiring or erecting new plant or premises, in respect of employment in that bakery during such period as the Minister considers reasonable in the circumstances; and
  - (g) in work done in any circumstances or for any other purpose in or for which the Minister is satisfied that special provision should be made.

(2) No order made under this section shall permit, or shall be construed as permitting, the employment of any person for more than seventy-two hours in any week in a bakery in the manufacture of bread or flour confectionery or in any other work incidental thereto.

(3) Any order made by the Minister under this section may be made—

- (a) for a limited period or without limit of period;
- (b) either generally or in relation to any area or to any description of bakery or premises;
- (c) subject to such conditions as he thinks fit,

and may contain such supplemental and consequential provisions as he considers necessary for giving full effect to the order.

Power of the Minister to modify the restrictions imposed by section 3.  
[23 of 1951  
19 of 1994]

5. The Minister may, where he considers it desirable so to do by reason of any breakdown of machinery or plant or other unforeseen emergency, permit the employment of any person in a bakery in the manufacture of bread or flour confectionery on any Sunday.

Overtime.  
[12 of 1967  
4 of 1972  
19 of 1994]

6. (1) A person who is employed in a bakery in the manufacture of bread or flour confectionery or in any other work incidental thereto shall be paid —

- (a) at twice the rate at which he would but for this section be paid, in respect of work—
  - (i) on Sundays, Christmas Day, the day after Christmas Day if Christmas falls on a Sunday, Eid-UI-Azha Day or, if that day is a Sunday, the following day, Phagwah Day or, if that day is a Sunday, the following day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Labour Day, that is to say the

1st May, or, if that day is a Sunday, the following day;

(ii) between the hour of seven in the evening of any day and the hour of five in the morning of the succeeding day; and

(b) at one and a half times the rate at which he would but for this section be paid, in respect of work—

(i) on any public holiday, other than as specified in paragraph (a) (i); or

(ii) on any day in excess of eight hours:

Provided that where the hours of work, or any of them, under this paragraph also fall under paragraph (a), the provisions of paragraph (a) shall apply in respect of such hours.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of thirty-one thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars.

Register of employees.

7. (1) The occupier of a bakery shall keep a register (hereinafter in this Act referred to as “the register of employees”) of the persons employed in the bakery in the manufacture of bread or flour confectionery or in any other work incidental thereto.

(2) The register of employees shall be in such form, and shall contain such particulars, as are from time to time prescribed by the Minister by notice published in the *Gazette*.

(3) The register of employees shall be kept up to date.

Powers of the  
Chief Labour  
Officer and  
other officers.  
[7 of 1949  
12 of 1967]  
19 of 1977

8. (1) The Chief Labour Officer, the Deputy Chief Labour Officer, the Assistant Chief Labour Officer, any Inspector of Labour, any Assistant Inspector of Labour or any officer or sub-officer of police shall, for the purpose of the execution of this Act, have power—

- (a) to enter, inspect and examine at any hour of the day or night, any bakery and every part thereof, when he has reasonable cause to believe that any person is employed therein, and to enter by day any place which he has reasonable cause to believe to be a bakery; and
- (b) to take with him such assistants as he considers necessary; and
- (c) to require the production of the register of employees kept under section 7, to inspect, examine and make copies of any entries therein and, if he so thinks fit, to remove the register to his office; and
- (d) to make such examination and inquiry as may be necessary to ascertain whether the provisions of this Act or of any order made thereunder or of any enactments for the time being in force relating to public health are complied with, in relation to the bakery and any persons employed therein;

- (e) to require any person whom he finds in a bakery to give such information as it is in his power to give as to the name and place of residence of the occupier of the bakery;
- (f) to examine, either alone or in the presence of any other person, as he thinks fit, with respect to matters under this Act, every person whom he finds in a bakery or whom he has reasonable cause to believe to be or to have been within the preceding two months employed in a bakery, and to require every such person to be so examined and to sign a declaration of the truth of the matters in respect of which he is so examined:

Provided that no person shall be required under this paragraph to answer any question or to give any evidence tending to incriminate himself; and

- (g) to exercise such other powers as may be necessary for carrying this Act into effect.

(2) The occupier of every bakery, his agents and servants, shall furnish the means required by the Chief Labour Officer, or other officer specified in subsection (1), as necessary for an entry, inspection, examination, inquiry or otherwise for the exercise of his powers under this Act in relation to such bakery.

Offences.  
[7 of 1949  
23 of 1951

9. (1) Where any person is employed in a bakery in the manufacture of bread or flour confectionery or in any

4 of 1972  
19 of 1994]

other work incidental thereto, and any of the provisions of section 3 or 5, or of an order made under section 4, has been contravened in respect of such employment, the occupier of the bakery shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of twelve thousand, five hundred dollars.

(2) Where—

- (a) no register of employees is kept as required by section 7; or
- (b) the name of an employee, or of a person who was an employee, is or has been omitted from such register; or
- (c) any particulars required by the notice under section 7 to be entered in the register of employees in respect of any employee are omitted from the register of employees, or are inaccurately stated therein,

the occupier of the bakery shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of thirty-one thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars.

(3) Any person who—

- (a) wilfully delays the examining officer, or any of his assistants under section 8(1)(b), in the exercise of any power under that section; or
- (b) fails to produce the register of employees which he is required by that section to produce; or

- (c) wilfully withholds any information as to who is the occupier of any bakery; or
- (d) conceals or prevents, or attempts to conceal or prevent, a person from appearing before or being examined by the examining officer; or
- (e) in any way obstructs the examining officer in the exercise of his powers or duties under section 8,

shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of thirty-one thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars.

(4) Where an offence under subsection (3) takes place in a bakery, the occupier of the bakery shall be guilty of an offence under that subsection.

(5) In subsection (3) the expression “examining officer” means the Chief Labour Officer or other officer specified in section 8 (1).

Power of  
magistrate to  
modify  
agreements.

**10.** Where, by reason of an agreement in force at the commencement of this Act between the lessor and the lessee of premises the whole or any part of which is used for the manufacture of bread or flour confectionery or any other work incidental thereto, the lessee is prevented from carrying out structural or other alterations in the premises, the lessee may apply to the magistrate of the magisterial district in which the premises are situate and, if the magistrate is satisfied that, having regard to the restrictions on hours of work imposed by or under this Act, the lessee ought reasonably to be allowed to carry out any such structural or other alterations, the magistrate may make such order setting aside or modifying the terms of the agreement as the magistrate considers just and equitable in the circumstances

of the case.

Saving for  
work in biscuit  
factories.

11. This Act shall not apply in respect of the employment of persons in a bakery in which the sole or principal work carried on is the manufacture of biscuits, or in such part of a bakery as may be specified in an order made by the Minister, being a part in which the Minister is satisfied that the sole or principal work carried on is the manufacture of biscuits.

Meaning of  
term  
"employment".  
[16 of 1958]

12. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the term "employment" shall be deemed for the purposes of this Act to include work being carried on by a person on his own account, and the term "employed" shall be construed accordingly.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to section 7.

## SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

O.15/1947

**BAKERIES (HOURS OF WORK)  
(CERTAIN PUBLIC HOLIDAYS) ORDER***made under section 4*

Citation

1. This Order may be cited as the Bakeries (Hours of Work) (Certain Public Holidays) Order.

Special cases

2. Anything contained in section 3 of the Act to the contrary notwithstanding, any person may in any year be employed in a bakery in the manufacture of bread and flour confectionery or in any other work incidental thereto—

- (a) between the hour of seven in the evening of the Wednesday immediately preceding Good Friday and the hour of five in the morning of the Thursday following that Wednesday;
- (b) between the hour of seven in the evening of the 23rd day of December and the hour of five in the morning of the succeeding day; and
- (c) between the hour of seven in the evening of the 30th day of December and the hour of five in the morning of the succeeding day,

for the purpose of providing supplies for Good Friday, Christmas day and the first week-day of January,

LAWS OF GUYANA

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Cap. 99:07

*Bakeries (Hours of Work)*

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[Subsidiary]

*Bakeries (Hours of Work) (Certain Public Holidays) Order.*

respectively.

Employment on  
following  
holiday.

3. A person employed in accordance with clause 2 on any date specified therein shall not be employed on the holiday following that date, save that where a person is so employed on the Wednesday preceding Good Friday he may be employed from the hour of seven in the evening on Good Friday.

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