



Ministerie van Toerisme, Economische Zaken, Verkeer en Telecommunicatie

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication

OPENING HOURS POLICY

1. PURPOSE

This policy is geared towards liberalizing the opening hours for service providing businesses.

2. APPLICATION

This policy applies as follows:

- All supermarkets, beauty supply stores (wholesale & retail), hair salons, and barber shops are granted an exemption and extended opening hours until 11pm for all days of the week (including Sunday) for a period of one (1) year.
- All gas stations and the convenient store attached to the gas station are granted an exemption, and allowed extended opening of 24 hours, for all days of the week (including Sunday) for a period of one year.

3. LEGAL AUTHORITY

The existing ordinance governing the opening hours of business was first established in 1969 no.58 referred to as "Landsverordening Winkelsluiting." The ordinance calls for stores to be closed on Sundays and days equal to Sunday and limited opening hours during the weekdays from 06:30am to 6:30pm. According to Article 3 of the "Winkelsluiting Verordening" the following businesses are exempted:

- a. Pharmacies as long as it regards the selling of medicines, pharmaceuticals and medical related items;
- b. Coffee shops, ice shops, beerhouses, bars, pubs, restaurants and businesses that solely sell strong alcoholic beverages;
- c. Lodgments, guesthouses and hotels
- d. Shops located in hotels and buildings belonging to the airport and harbor.
- e. Shops who specialized in selling:
 - i. burial clothing and accessories;
 - ii. fuel and lubricants for engines, motor oil, fuel, parts of engines and vehicles;
 - iii. Bread, fresh milk and products of fresh milk

All other types of businesses that are considered as "winkels" can apply for a permit as per Article 1 (een winkel is een besloten ruimte waar of van waaruit waren in het klein, anders dan uitsluitend door middel van verkoop automaten, aan het publiek plegen te worden verkocht); excluding wholesalers and where solely vending machines are stationed, or any other type of business as stipulated by "landsbesluit h.a.m." as a "winkel".

Exception of article 2 includes shops, which sell fresh meat, and products made of fresh meat and fresh fish to the public are allowed to open on Sundays and days equal to Sunday (in conformity with the Labour regulation P.B. 1958 no.24) from 6 to 10.

The scope does not address the period November 28- December 4 and December 17 – December 30, because the opening hours are already regulated in article 5 of the aforementioned ordinance.