

Date: July 19, 2012

To: All LCLB staff
All Industry Associations
All Local Governments and Police

Re: Amendment to the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation respecting the ability for food primary licensees to allow customers to bring their own wine to consume at the restaurant.

The purpose of this policy directive is to announce an amendment to the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation section 42 affecting food primary (FP) licensees. This amendment permits customers to bring their own bottle of wine into a licensed restaurant to consume with their meal. This change takes effect immediately.

BACKGROUND

“Bring Your Own Wine” was initiated by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch to offer more choice and flexibility for both customers and businesses as well as increased licensee promotional opportunities.

POLICY

Section 42 of the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation has been amended.

- Food Primary licensees may allow customers to bring their own bottle of wine into licensed restaurants.
- Participation is up to the individual licensee. Licensees are not compelled to allow a customer to bring their own wine.
- Licensees are not required to seek approval or provide notice to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch that they are participating.
- The wine must be unopened and commercially produced. No UVin or home made products are permitted.
- Customers must hand the bottle to the licensee or staff person as soon as they enter the restaurant.
- The wine is served in the same manner as wine selected from the menu. The licensee may set a corkage fee for this service.
- Customers may take away unfinished bottles of wine. Your staff must put a new cork in the bottle and tell customers who are driving that they must store the wine behind the rear seat, in the trunk, or in an exterior compartment – it must be out of reach of people in the car.
- Unfinished bottles of wine may not be added to the licensee’s inventory.
- Licensees are still bound by responsible service requirements and must not over serve patrons or serve intoxicated patrons.

Effective Immediately:

Subject to the terms and conditions outlined above, Food Primary licensees may permit customers to bring their own bottle of wine into a restaurant.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information regarding liquor control and licensing in British Columbia is available on the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch website at www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/lclb. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch toll free in Canada at 1-866-209-2111 or 250-952-5787 if calling from the Victoria area.



Karen Ayers
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