

FACTSHEET

Liquor in Grocery Stores - Updated February 2015

KEY POINTS

- Effective April 1, 2015, **private and government liquor stores and most wine stores** in BC will be **able to relocate to an eligible grocery store**. Winery-owned and sacramental wine stores cannot relocate.
 - LRS and government liquor stores will be subject to the 1 km distance rule; wine stores will be not.
- Grocery stores may sell liquor/wine either in a store-within-a-store or 100% BC wine on the shelf, but not both at the same location.
- For grocery stores to be eligible to sell liquor under the “store-within-a-store” model they must:
 1. Sell approximately **70% food products** (aligning with the traditional grocery experience).
 2. Once liquor store sales are added, at least **50% of sales must continue to be food-related products**.
 3. After liquor sales are approved for the store, the **70% food sales requirement continues in regard to the total sales revenue from non-liquor products**. This is to ensure the business remains primarily a grocery store.
 4. Be a minimum of **929 square meters** (10,000 square feet). There will be **no minimum size requirement for liquor retail stores** within grocery stores.
 5. Not be general merchandise, “big box”, multipurpose, or convenience stores.
- Grocery stores will have the opportunity to **co-brand with liquor or wine stores** (regardless of whether the liquor store is physically in the grocery store) as long as they share the same ownership.



Example One: Open entrance “store-within-a-store” grocery model

This is one example of what the model could look like when implemented in 2015: open entrance, same-cart shopping, and separate cashiers to protect health, safety, and access by minors.

Example Two: Connecting entrance “store-within-a-store” grocery model

This is one example of what the model could look like when implemented in 2015: connecting entrance, same-cart shopping, and separate cashiers to protect health, safety, and access by minors.



KEY POINTS (Continued)

- Liquor stores within grocery stores must be **physically separated from the rest of the grocery store** with controlled access and separate cash tills.
- **One-cart shopping will be permitted**; i.e. customers will be allowed to move freely with their cart between the grocery and liquor stores.
- The current **moratorium on the number of private liquor stores** (until 2022) is maintained.
- *Also effective April 1, 2015*: the **5 km rule will be removed** to allow for the relocation of licenses throughout the province; BC **government liquor stores** will be allowed to **offer refrigeration and extended hours**; all liquor retailers will purchase product from the LDB at a **common wholesale price**

RELOCATION APPLICATION PROCESS AND LOTTERY

- From **February 27 to March 27, 2015, interested liquor stores will have a 4-week window to apply for relocation** beyond 5 km and/or into a grocery store.
- All applications received during this period will be **placed in a lottery and drawn at random**. Applicants will be notified of their position in the queue after the draw is complete.
- The process will apply to private and government liquor stores. It is **not required for VQA or wine stores** (exempt from the 1 km rule) **OR any licensee that is adjacent to a grocery store** and plans to become a “store-within-a-store” by simply knocking down a wall.
- However, if an LRS or government liquor store is attached to or abutting an eligible grocery store, they must **apply for a structural alteration** to remove the wall to create a store-within-a-store.
- Applicants **received after March 27, 2015** will be reviewed in date order, following the initial queue.
- **Applicants must comply with the 1 km rule**. If more than one store wants to relocate its license within the same 1 km radius, the first applicant chosen is given priority.
- An **LRS Relocation Application Form must be submitted** if the licensee wishes to relocate into a grocery store or beyond what the 5-km rule previously allowed them. **Only one such application** will be accepted by LCLB per LRS license number during the lottery intake period.
- [Download the complete application package here](#). **Only complete applications will be eligible** to be entered into the lottery. This includes:
 1. Proof of valid interest in the proposed LRS site
 2. Scaled site plan
 3. Photographs showing the proposed site
 4. Grocery Store Declaration only if your proposed LRS site is located within a grocery store
 5. Completed application form
 6. Application fee



ALLIANCE OF BEVERAGE LICENSEES
FOR A RESPONSIBLE LIQUOR INDUSTRY

ABLE BC IS WORKING FOR YOU

- We will continue to fight to protect our members' investments and work to shape these policy changes so they may benefit our industry.
- It is important that ABLE BC members contact their MLAs and voice their concerns about the impacts of these changes on our industry. These **key messages can be discussed** with MLAs and other elected officials, your customers, and the public at large.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- BC Government Press Release: [B.C. takes next step towards liquor in grocery stores](#)
- BC Government Press Release: [Lottery announced for liquor store relocation and grocery queue](#)
- BC Government Store-within-a-Store Model Potential Layout: [Example One](#) and [Example Two](#)
- BC Government Factsheet: [B.C.'s two-part model for grocery store liquor sales](#)
- LCLB: [Relocation of a Liquor Retail Store Information](#)
- LCLB: [LRS Transfer of Location Application Package](#)
- LCLB: [Grocery Store Declaration Form](#)
- LCLB: [Private Liquor Store and BC Liquor Store Locations](#)
- LCLB: [Policy Directive No. 15-01 Phased-in Implementation of Liquor in Grocery Stores](#)
- ABLE BC Factsheet: [Wine on Grocery Store Shelves](#)
- ABLE BC Factsheet: [Summary of Liquor Policy Changes to be Implemented on April 1, 2015](#)
- ABLE BC and BC's private liquor industry in the news: [Media Coverage](#)
- Contact [ABLE BC](#) at 604-688-5560 (1-800-663-4883) or info@ablebc.ca



ALLIANCE OF BEVERAGE LICENSEES
FOR A RESPONSIBLE LIQUOR INDUSTRY