

INFORMATION BULLETIN – No.21

Highlights of Amendments to Regulation 719 of the Liquor Licence Act (Licences To Sell Liquor)

Effective June 1, 2011 and August 2, 2011

Government of Ontario has made several amendments to Regulation 719 (Licences To Sell Liquor) under the *Liquor Licence Act*. These changes are being introduced following extensive consultation with a wide range of liquor industry stakeholders, law enforcement agencies, public health organizations and other interested parties and are intended to:

- Remove some previous barriers and restrictions for liquor sales licensees
- Provide flexibility to businesses
- Improve tourism and local economies
- Strengthen Ontario's economy and create new opportunities for jobs
- Expand enforcement options where violations of Ontario's liquor laws occur.

The regulatory changes affecting liquor sales licensees will be introduced in two phases – June 1, 2011 and August 2, 2011 – and are outlined below.

For more information on regulatory amendments affecting liquor sales licensees, please visit the AGCO website at www.agco.on.ca, or contact the AGCO Customer Service Department at 1-800-522-2876 (toll free in Ontario) or 416-326-8700 (in the Greater Toronto Area).

HIGHLIGHTS

Changes effective June 1, 2011

Complimentary drinks / minimum pricing

Licensees may now offer complimentary drinks to their customers under certain limited circumstances, which will be included in the Registrar's Liquor Advertising Guidelines for Liquor Sales Licensees and Manufacturers' Representatives.

Unless providing a complimentary drink to a patron, a licensee must maintain the current minimum pricing requirement and not sell a serving of alcohol for less than two dollars (\$2.00), including tax.

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Alcohol and Gaming
Commission of Ontario

CAJO

Commission des alcools
et des jeux de l'Ontario

Boats for Hire

Within the regular hours of sale and service of liquor (11 a.m. to 2 a.m.), there are no further restrictions on the time or number of occasions during the year that liquor can be sold and served on a boat for hire, regardless of whether or not the boat is docked or the weather is poor.

Outdoor SOP Holders May Now Enter Into Agreement With Liquor Sales Licensees

If a Special Occasion Permit has been issued for an outdoor event that has both licensed areas (bars, restaurants, etc.) and areas to which the SOP applies (i.e. the street on which the event is taking place), patrons can move freely between these areas with a single serving of alcohol, under certain conditions and where permission has been granted by the Registrar of Alcohol and Gaming.

Patios

Staff are now permitted to carry drinks from one licensed area to another licensed area across an area that is not under the exclusive control of the licensee, such as a public sidewalk. Separate service bars are no longer required. Patrons may not carry drinks across a non-licensed area.

Additional Forms of Prescribed Identification

Although any identification with a photo, a date of birth and that reasonably appears to have been issued by a government may be accepted by a licensee, there are now three additional types of government-issued identification that have been added to the prescribed list and that the licensee may rely on to reasonably establish a patron's age:

- Secure Indian Status card (Canadian)
- Permanent Resident card (Canadian),
- any photo card issued under the *Photo Card Act, 2008*.

All-inclusive packages

A licensee may now offer packages that include the cost of a trip, food, services or accommodation and liquor for one price.

Changes effective August 2, 2011

Primary Use

The primary business of a premises no longer has to be the sale and service of liquor and food in order to be eligible for a liquor sales licence.

Stadium Endorsement / Tiered Seating

The category of “stadium endorsement” no longer exists. Licensees are now permitted to sell and serve liquor in areas that contain tiered seating without obtaining a stadium endorsement (e.g. fixed tiered seating), including the use of temporary tiered seating (e.g. bleachers).

A licensee cannot add tiered seating without the written approval of the Registrar.