

APPENDIX E

TYPES OF LIQUOR LICENCES ISSUED IN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DATE: November 20, 2015

(but hyperlinks will be updated whenever this document is accessed)

In response to a request of Council during the Planning and Land Use Committee meeting of November 12, 2015 we are providing this document to give a broad understanding of the types of liquor licences issued in the province of British Columbia. All of this information is excerpted directly from the website for [B.C.'s Liquor Control and Licensing Branch](#). Hyperlinking this document will ensure updated information. The purpose of making it a hyperlinked document is so that as liquor applications progress and continue, the website information (linked below) will be updated.

B.C.'s Liquor Control and Licensing Branch issues:

- Agent's Licences for independent liquor agents who market products from a variety of liquor manufacturers, and BC liquor manufacturers who want to sell their products off-site.
- Catering Licences for catering companies so they may provide full food and beverage services to their customers at events.
- Food-Primary Licences for selling liquor by the glass at businesses (restaurants) where the primary purpose is to serve food.
 - Patron participation entertainment is outside the normal terms and conditions of a food primary licence, and outside the routine steps established to assess their impacts during the application process. To ensure that community concerns about noise, nuisance and other impacts are considered, input from local government or First Nation authorities is required before patron participation entertainment will be approved for a food primary licensed restaurant.
- Liquor-Primary Licences for selling liquor by the glass at businesses (pubs, bars, lounges, nightclubs, etc.) where the primary purpose is to sell liquor. Private clubs require a liquor-primary club licence.

Sub Category: Liquor primary club licence:

Section 1 of the Act defines a club as an organization incorporated under the laws of British Columbia that has been in continuous operation for at least one year immediately prior to application for a liquor licence. A club must have at least 50 members who pay annual membership fees of at least \$10.00. The main focus of a club must be social, athletic, recreational, fraternal, benevolent or patriotic in nature, but this does not preclude profit-making. A club has its own facilities and does not sublet food or liquor service. Under section 52 of the Regulations, liquor may only be served to club members and invited guests. Guests must be registered along with the accompanying club member.

Veterans' clubs are eligible for liquor primary club licences. These currently include the following organizations:

- the Royal Canadian Legion
- Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada
- War Amputations of Canada

- The Royal Canadian Air Force Association
- a chartered branch of any of the organizations listed above
- British Ex-Servicemen's Association of Vancouver, and
- The Royal Canadian Naval Association.

Under section 29 of the Act, a chartered branch of a veterans' club is not entitled to apply for, obtain or hold a liquor licence while it is not in good standing with the central organization.

- Manufacturer's Licences for making liquor at a winery, brewery or distillery. Manufacturers can also apply to add a lounge, special event area, tour area and/or picnic area endorsement to their manufacturer's licence.
- Special Occasion Licences for individuals and groups holding special events, such as community celebrations, weddings or banquets.
- UBrew/UVin (Ferment-on-Premises) Licences for businesses that sell their customers the ingredients, equipment and advice they need to make their own beer, wine, cider or coolers.

In addition, although no new licences are available at this time:

- Liquor (Licensee) Retail Store Licences for selling liquor by the bottle at retail stores (often called Private Liquor Stores).
- Wine Store Licences for wine stores including winery-operated stores, independent wine stores, VQA stores and tourist wine stores.

What is the difference between a food-primary and a liquor-primary licence?

A food-primary (restaurant) licence is issued when the primary purpose is the service of food. A liquor-primary (bar) licence is issued when the primary purpose is the service of liquor, hospitality or entertainment. The approval process is different for each type of licence with the liquor primary process being more involved. Minors are generally prohibited from liquor primary establishments.

There is an excellent and comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions section of the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Branch website. The FAQs section covers areas of application, transfers, delivery, minors, enforcement, public complaints and concerns, etc.