

## TYPES OF LIQUOR LICENCES ISSUED IN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

*(hyperlinks will be updated whenever this document is accessed on-line)*

This document has been prepared to provide a broad understanding of the types of liquor licences issued in the province of British Columbia. The information is excerpted from [B.C.'s Liquor Control and Licensing Branch](#) (LCLB) website. The document contains hyperlinks to ensure that the most up to date information is always easily accessible.

[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. An endorsement is required for patron participation (e.g., dancing, karaoke) or patron non-participation entertainment (e.g., musician).
- [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. An endorsement is required for patron participation or patron non-participation entertainment.
- [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.

The LCLB is responsible for decisions on liquor licences, but local government plays a role in providing feedback on community impacts, including:

- proposed location
- occupant capacity
- operating hours required
- views of local residents
- proximity of proposed establishment to other social or recreational facilities and public buildings
- number of other licensed establishments in the area

- potential traffic, noise and parking issues
- municipal zoning
- population density and trends
- impact on the community if the application is approved

Patron participation endorsements must be supported by local government as they have the potential for noise disturbance to the surrounding community and for the establishment to shift focus from a restaurant to a bar.

The approval process is different for each type of licence. The City's *Liquor Licensing Process & Fees* policy guides the staff evaluation process and Council's subsequent review and consideration.

The LCLB website contains a comprehensive set of frequently asked questions at [Frequently Asked Questions section of the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Branch website](#). The FAQs cover topics such as application, licence conditions, licence transfers, compliance and enforcement and public complaints and concerns.

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