

Date: December 1, 2021

To: All LCRB Staff  
All Rural Licensee Retail Stores licensees  
All Local Governments, Indigenous Nations and Police agencies

**Re: Amendments to regulations for the Rural Licensee Retail Store (RLRS) licence class**

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## **Current Regulatory Requirements**

### General store operation

1. It is a requirement of an Rural Licensee Retail Store (RLRS) licence issued under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* (LCLA) that the RLRS is located in a store that is, in the opinion of the general manager, a general store.
2. RLRS licensees, whose licence was converted from an appointment under the *Liquor Distribution Act* (converted RLRS), are not required to operate a store that is, in the opinion of the general manager, a general store.

### RLRS relocations

1. In addition to satisfying general application requirements to amend a licence, an application to relocate an RLRS licence issued under the LCLA or a converted RLRS must not be approved unless the general manager is satisfied that the new location of the RLRS
  - a. will be located in a rural community or tourist destination resort with no other RLRS;
  - b. will be in a rural community that will serve has enough residents for the store to be a viable business without non-resident customers; and
  - c. would be a viable business without the licence.

### Business Viability

1. Under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation (LCLR)*, the general manager must not issue an RLRS licence, unless they are satisfied that the area the store will serve has enough residents for the store to be a viable business without non-resident customers, and that the general store in which the RLRS would be located would be viable without the licence.

#### Special Event Permittee Sales

1. Subject to general manager approval, RLRS licensees may sell liquor in unopened containers to special event permittees.

### **New Regulatory Requirements**

#### General store operation

1. It is a requirement of an RLRS licence issued under the LCLA that
  - a. The RLRS be located in a store that is, in the opinion of the general manager, a general store; and  
Less than half of the shelf space in the general store, including refrigerators, can be stocked with liquor products. Products on remaining shelves must be such that the general manager is of the opinion the licensee is operating a general store.
2. Effective April 30, 2022 the following will be a requirement of a converted RLRS licence:
  - a. The converted RLRS must be located in a store that is, in the opinion of the general manager, a general store; and
  - b. Less than half of the shelf space in the general store, including refrigerators, can be stocked with liquor products. Products on remaining shelves must be such that the general manager is of the opinion the licensee is operating a general store.

#### RLRS relocations

1. Re-locations are only permitted within the same rural community/tourist destination resort when all other RLRS licensing requirements are met.

#### Business Viability

1. Applicants for an RLRS licence are no longer required to satisfy the general manager in respect of the viability of their business.

#### Special Event Permittee Sales

1. RLRS licensees may sell liquor in unopened containers to special event permittees and are no longer required to first seek approval of the general manager.

#### **Further Information**

Further information regarding liquor and cannabis regulation and licensing in British Columbia is available on the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) website at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/liquorregulationandlicensing>.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the LCRB toll free in Canada at 1-866-209-2111 or 250 952-5787 if calling from the Victoria area.

#### **Disclaimer**

This communication is intended to be used only for general informational purposes and may not apply to all situations. This communication does not constitute legal advice nor is it a comprehensive statement of the legal obligations that arise under the Liquor Control and Licensing Act, regulations, or any other applicable laws. When interpreting and applying the information contained in this communication, you are encouraged to seek specific advice from your professional advisors as appropriate in the circumstances.

*Original signed by*

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