

Date: November 24, 2014

To: All Staff
Police Agencies
All Industry Associations
Local Government/First Nations

Re: Temporary alteration of terms and conditions for all-ages events in liquor primary establishments

Introduction

On January 31, 2014, Parliamentary Secretary, John Yap, announced recommendations for liquor policy change under the B.C. Liquor Policy Review, and the government also announced and supported those recommendations. This Policy Directive implements policy recommendation #66 for temporary alterations of licence terms and conditions to allow for all-ages events in Liquor Primary establishments.

Present policy

Licensed establishments may apply to the Branch to temporarily change the hours during which they sell liquor so that the venue can be used for an alternative-use event. Temporary alterations to licenses are currently limited to 4-6 per year per establishment.

New policy

Liquor primary licensees and manufacturers with a lounge endorsement are allowed an unlimited number of all-ages liquor-free events, requiring a temporary change of terms and conditions. There will be a notification process but no application or approval process. This policy will take effect on December 9, 2014.

Online notifications (POSSE and OneStop) are planned for implementation in mid-February. Under this process, licensees can attend OneStop to provide notification of their events to the Branch. Further information will be provided when this process is operational.

In the meantime a manual process will be implemented. For this interim process, licensees are required to notify the Branch at least 14 days in advance by sending an email to LCLBAllAgesNotification@gov.bc.ca outlining the licence number, address, date, time, and general description of the event (e.g. dance with live music, other live entertainment, movie, etc.). An automatic reply email will be generated that sets out terms and conditions of the temporary alteration of the license. Branch staff will distribute the notification to the appropriate inspector(s).

The reply email will acknowledge receipt of the event notification and inform licensees

of the following terms and conditions (these may change at the discretion of the General Manager):

- Minors are permitted unaccompanied by adults as long as liquor is not served or sold during the hours of the event.
- The event cannot extend past the hours of ordinary liquor service.
- If the licensee contravenes the terms and conditions of its licence or any other legislated requirements, enforcement action may be taken.
- This approval is subject to any existing laws or terms and conditions that restrict a licensee from holding this type of event. The General Manager may, in the public interest, add terms and conditions to a licence that limit all-ages events.

The licensee must:

- Post signage outside the establishment to indicate the occurrence of an all-ages event, the hours of the event, and that the establishment is closed to liquor service.
- Ensure that liquor is secured and inaccessible during the event.
- Ensure there is half-an-hour between the close of liquor service and the opening of the all-ages event.
- Ensure there is half-an-hour to clear minors from its establishment if the licensee re-opens for liquor service before the end of its hours of permissible liquor service.
- Take measures to ensure that the operation of the event does not disturb persons in the vicinity of the establishment, including that:
 - The licensee must ensure licensed security staff are present to monitor and control the event.
 - If patrons depart during the event, they are not allowed to re-enter the establishment.

Terms and conditions obligate licensees to monitor the safety of their patrons and prevent community disturbance. Licensees are also bound by the legislation to prevent intoxication and to not serve minors, among all other applicable requirements. The Branch continues to have authority to inspect these all-ages events.

Further Information

Further information regarding liquor control and licensing in British Columbia is available on the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch website at <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/lclb/>. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch toll free in Canada at 1-866-209-2111 or 250 952-5787 if calling from the Victoria area.

Original signed by:

Douglas Scott
Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager