

May 5, 2015

To: All LCLB staff
All IWS Licence Holders
All Local Governments, First Nations, and Police Agencies

Re: Opportunity to convert an Independent Wine Store (IWS licence) into a Licensee Retail Store (LRS licence)

Introduction

Effective immediately, Independent Wine Store licensees may apply to convert their licence to a Licensee Retail Store licence. IWS licences are wine stores that are licensed to sell all types of wine (except sacramental wine). Conversion will allow these licensees to sell all types of liquor products.

Upon conversion licensees will be issued a LRS licence and the IWS licence will be permanently terminated. Licensees who convert will no longer be allowed to sell wine on grocery store shelves and will no longer be allowed to sell wine directly to Special Occasion Licence holders.

Eligibility

For an IWS to convert to a LRS the IWS location must not be within 1 km of another LRS, BC Liquor Store or proposed location of another LRS or BCLS. Licence holders need to be in good standing with a renewed IWS licence before they are eligible to apply for a conversion. A list of 1-kilometre rule addresses is published online at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/liquor-regulation-licensing/licensed-establishment-locations>.

Application must be received by the LCLB prior to **4:30 pm on Monday 31 March 2025**.

Application

IWS licensees can submit an application using Form LCLB088 – Converting an Independent Wine Store to a Licensee Retail Store – available online at http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/employment-business-and-economic-development/business-management/liquor-regulation-licensing/forms/lclb088_iws_to_lrs_conversion.pdf.

If the new location will be a grocery store, a declaration form ([LCLB090](#)) will also be required.

Fees

There is an application fee of \$220 to convert from an IWS to a LRS licence.

Annual renewal fees will continue to be based on the previous year's liquor purchases.

Further Information

Further information on these changes can be found in sections 14.1 and 14.11 of the [Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation](#).

Further information regarding liquor control and licensing in British Columbia is available on the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch website at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/liquor-regulation-licensing>.

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

