

Date: April 3, 2020

To: All LCRB Staff
All Licensees
All Industry Associations
All local government, First Nations and police agencies

Re: **Hours of sale and delivery, liquor retail outlets**

General Manager Authority

Under Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation (LCLR), s. 138, the General Manager (GM) of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch may extend the hours of liquor service that have been set out in the LCLR, if the GM is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances, and it is not contrary to the public interest to extend these hours.

Under LCLR, s. 194, a delivery service may purchase liquor on behalf of a customer from a liquor store or any licensee authorized to sell in unopened containers, and deliver and sell that liquor to the customer. The delivery must not take place between 11:30 p.m. and 9 a.m., unless authorized by the GM.

New Policy

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province's March 2020 declaration of a state of emergency and the Provincial Health Officer's March 2020 declaration of a public health emergency, the GM is putting in place time-limited measures to support the Provincial Health Officer's direction and recommendations.

Accordingly, the GM is, by term and condition, temporarily extending the hours of liquor service for Licensee Retail Stores, Wine Stores and Special Wine Stores, and Manufacturer Onsite Store endorsements to no earlier than 7 a.m. and end no later than 11 p.m. These extended hours are intended to assist retailers in implementing the Provincial Health Officer's recommendations, including in relation to social/physical distancing and protecting vulnerable populations.

Note: This does not override any additional requirements or limitations placed on a business's hours of liquor service by a local government or First Nation.

Associated with the extension of hours of liquor service, the GM is authorizing delivery services to purchase liquor on behalf of a customer from a liquor store or from any licensee authorized

to sell in unopened containers, and deliver and sell that liquor to a customer, provided the delivery does not take place between 11:30 p.m. and 7 a.m.

This new policy is effective immediately. The change is made at the GM's initiative; licensees do not need to submit an application to change their hours of sale.

The new policy will be in effect until July 15, 2020

Explanation

This new policy is provided in the context of the provincial state of emergency and public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Extending the hours of liquor service is expected to support licensees in complying with requirements under Provincial Health Orders and recommendations – including those relating to social distancing and supporting vulnerable populations by providing access to liquor which coincides with early shopping hours being provided by other retailers such as grocery stores.

The GM is satisfied that the present circumstances are exceptional, and that it is not contrary to the public interest to extend hours of liquor service for the impacted licences and endorsements. In the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state of emergency and the public health emergency, the GM considers that it is in the public interest to put in place measures that assist in implementation of the Provincial Health Officer's orders and recommendations.

The new policy will be reviewed as the provincial health context changes.

Further Information

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

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

Original signed by

Mary Sue Maloughney
Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager