

Date: June 29, 2020

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

Re: Conversion of Independent Wine Stores to Licensee Retail Stores

Previous Policy

Independent Wine Store (IWS) licences are wine store licences that are permitted to sell all types of wine (except sacramental wine). IWS licensees may apply to convert their licence to a Licensee Retail Store (LRS) licence. For an IWS to be eligible to convert to a LRS, the proposed location of the converted licence must not be within 1km of another LRS, BC Liquor Store (BCLS) or proposed location of another LRS or BCLS.

New Policy

IWS licensees may now apply to convert their licence to a LRS in their existing location without regard for the 1km separation requirement. The exception to the 1km separation requirement applies only to the existing location of the IWS. If an IWS licensee would like to convert to a LRS in a location other than their current store location, the new location will need to comply with the 1km separation requirement.

Explanation

The 1km separation requirement in the previous policy prevented IWS licensees from converting to an LRS. Removing this requirement is expected to facilitate these conversions.

This regulation change responds to Recommendation #22 of the Business Technical Advisory Panel (BTAP). BTAP is comprised of representatives from various sectors of the liquor industry that was tasked by government to identify their priorities for improving the efficiency and business relations between licensees and government. A copy of the BTAP report can be found here:

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/employment-business-and-economic-development/business-management/liquor-regulation-licensing/documents/business technical advisory panel report and recommendations.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/employment-business-and-economic-development/business-management/liquor-regulation-licensing/documents/business_technical_advisory_panel_report_and_recommendations.pdf)

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: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/liquor-regulation-licensing>.

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