

Date: June 15, 2021

To: All Licensees
All LCRB Staff
All Industry Associations
All Local governments, Indigenous Nations and Police agencies

Re: Patio bounding and signage

Current Policy

Liquor Primary (LP), Food Primary (FP), and Manufacturer licensees with a Lounge or Special Event Area endorsement, may apply for the permanent addition of a patio to their licence. Patios may be licensed for the sale and service of liquor for all or part of the year.

The Liquor Policy Manual (LPM) indicates the factors which the General Manager (GM) of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) may consider in determining whether to approve a patio application, including the specific characteristics of patio bounding and signage.

New Policy

The LPM has been revised to remove advice about the specific characteristics of patio bounding and signage. Instead, licensees are advised that they are responsible for selecting bounding and signage for their patios. These must be sufficient to ensure the licensee can comply with all regulatory requirements.

The LPM has also been updated to provide additional clarity on operation of patios for all or part of the year and the factors to be considered when determining whether licensees have ownership or sufficient control over the proposed patio area.

The LP, FP and Manufacturer Terms & Conditions handbooks have been revised to require that licensed areas that are not located indoors (e.g., patios) must have boundaries that are marked. This ensures that the service area can be easily identified.

Explanation

These changes are consistent with the LCRB's voluntary compliance model and on-going initiatives to streamline licensing processes where appropriate, and to improve client service. Where bounding does not sufficiently demarcate the service area, LCRB Inspectors will work with the licensees to ensure compliance. If contraventions associated with insufficient bounding and signage occur, additional terms and conditions may be applied to the licence to ensure public safety.

These changes have been implemented to support the implementation of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General's [mandate letter commitment](#) to make temporarily expanded service areas permanent. See [Policy Directive 21-09](#) for further information.

Further Information

Further information regarding liquor and cannabis regulation and licensing in British Columbia is available on the 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
Mary Sue Maloughney,
Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch