

What the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act means for bottle stores

The law has changed. The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 has replaced the Sale of Liquor Act 1989.

Some changes that affect bottle stores:

Trading hours

- You will only be allowed to sell alcohol between the hours of 7am (or later) and 11pm.
- If your licence currently has shorter hours with later opening or earlier closing, it remains in place and you cannot extend to these maximum hours.
- This may change if your local council sets different hours through a local alcohol policy. There will be public consultation about this so you will know about this beforehand.

Alcohol promotions

You must not hold any promotions that:

- encourage excessive consumption of alcohol
- promote alcohol with special appeal to minors
- advertise or promote (except inside your bottle store):
 - a discount of 25% or more on alcohol
 - free alcohol
 - a benefit (such as a prize or gift) when alcohol is bought.

Drinking water

- When you renew your licence you will be required to provide free drinking water at all times.

Penalties

- Some penalties have increased. For example, if you hold illegal promotions or serve alcohol to an intoxicated person, you could be fined up to \$10,000 and your licence could be suspended for up to seven days. You could also be fined up to \$4,000 (and your staff up to \$2,000) for being intoxicated on duty. If you allow an intoxicated person to remain on the premises you can be fined up to \$5,000.
- If you allow minors into restricted or supervised areas, or if you are intoxicated on duty, or if you sell alcohol outside of your trading hours - you are committing an infringement offence and a Police officer or a licensing inspector may issue you with a notice to pay a fine.
- If you commit three specified offences within three years you could lose your licence and or manager's certificate for five years.

Licence changes

- There are new requirements for licences. For example, the design and layout of your premises, which can help to prevent crime, will be considered. This can include being able to see into the store through at least half of the window areas.
- All licences and renewals will be issued by a District Licensing Committee (DLC) set up by your local council. There is a new national authority, the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority, which considers appeals and variations, suspensions or cancellations of licences or managers certificates.
- Under the new law, as well as Police and licensing inspectors, public health staff will now also investigate applications for off-licences including bottle stores.
- Dairies and convenience stores will not be issued with licences.
- Contact your local council, or visit the websites below to find out more about new licensing requirements.

Sale to minors

- You still must not sell alcohol to anyone under-18. To avoid a fine of up to \$10,000, you must continue to make sure your customers are 18 or over by looking at their driver's licence, passport, or 18+ card and satisfying yourself that it is genuine and belongs to the person.

Manager

- You must still have a manager on duty at all times and the manager must have a manager's certificate.
- The manager's full name (ie, first name and surname) must still be prominently displayed inside the premises.

Licence fee

- Your licence fee is likely to increase. There will be an application fee to renew your licence every three years, and an annual fee.
- The new fee will recover the cost to the regulatory agencies and will vary depending on the risk of the premises.
- Government is currently working on new regulations to set the new fees.
- Local councils will be able to make their own bylaws to set some fees at a different level.

To find out more about the changes to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act go to:

- Justice.govt.nz/policy/sale-and-supply-of-alcohol
- Alcohol.org.nz/legislation-policy/sale-and-supply-alcohol-act-2012

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