

# INFORMATION BULLETIN – No. 001

## *Liquor Licence Act* Regulatory Changes

(August 2002)

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) is pleased to announce a number of regulatory changes under the *Liquor Licence Act* that take effect August 29, 2002.

The following revisions to Ontario's regulatory regime have been undertaken to eliminate unnecessary regulatory requirements and to modernize and update laws relating to the licensing, and sale and service of beverage alcohol in the Province:

- **Three-month 'grace' period on liquor sales licence renewals no longer applies**  
The three-month 'grace' period permitted a liquor sales licensee to submit a renewal within 90 days after the expiry date. The grace period did not permit a licensee to continue the sale and service of beverage alcohol unless a renewal was submitted prior to their expiry date. Removing the 'grace' period eliminates any confusion regarding sale and service of beverage alcohol with an expired licence. The change also harmonizes liquor legislation with other Provincial legislation.

The AGCO will continue to remind licensees to renew their licence 60 days prior to their expiry date. However, it is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure their liquor sales licence renewal application is submitted to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) prior to the expiry date of their licence.

- **Standardize the requirement for partitions for licensed and non-licensed areas**  
The requirement for a 1.06 metre (42 inch) high partition to separate a liquor sale licensed premises from the unlicensed areas has been changed to 0.9 metres (36 inches). This change has been made to reduce conflicts with/and accommodate municipal bylaws.
- **Changes to the pre-approval of advertising by the AGCO**  
In efforts to eliminate red tape and reduce costs to licensees, the AGCO will no longer require liquor sales licensees and manufacturers to obtain pre-approval of advertising. Licensees will be required to comply with the new regulations under the *Liquor Licence Act* for advertising and with AGCO Advertising Guidelines.

The AGCO will continue to monitor beverage alcohol advertising and review all complaints received. Non-compliance with the regulations and guidelines could result in prosecution, suspension of advertising privileges and/or suspension or revocation of their licence.

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- **Allow manufacturer's to donate product to charities holding a Special Occasion Permit**

Manufacturers may now donate liquor to eligible charities holding Special Occasion Permits. Beverage alcohol donated to eligible charities is considered as product “sold” and be subject to levies and taxes. Manufacturers are required to record all donated product.

- **Eliminate restrictions on alcoholic content of beverage alcohol sold at stadiums**

This change permits stadium licensees to serve coolers to their patrons. Regulatory requirements under the *Liquor Licence Act* and Regulations to ensure moderate and responsible service and consumption of beverage alcohol continue.

- **Allow liquor as a prize at licensed raffle events**

Charitable and religious organizations under a valid raffle lottery licence issued by the AGCO or local municipality may now award liquor as a prize. Only those over the age of 19 years may be awarded such a prize with this condition disclosed on all ticket sales.

- **Permit banquet halls more leeway to package banquet events**

Banquet hall facilities licensed under the *Liquor Licence Act* may now offer packages of food and beverage alcohol a common practice at banquet facilities – but one technically prohibited under the regulations until this amendment.

The new regulation places a number of similar restrictions around sales package with beverage alcohol that are consistent with the business practice of a banquet facility, including that events may only be for invited guests, a limitation on the duration of the event and a prohibition on advertising the event. As always, liquor sales licensees are responsible for ensuring there is no “over service”.

For more information about liquor licensing and the regulatory framework, please visit our website at [www.agco.on.ca](http://www.agco.on.ca) or contact our head office at (416) 326-8700 or toll free at 1-800-522-2876.