

**INFORMATION BULLETIN – No. 010**  
***Limited Licensing of Washrooms, Hallways and  
Stairwells and Other Similar Areas (WHS Policy)***  
**(February 2007)**

Effective February 2007, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) will accept applications from liquor sales licensees for the limited licensing of certain locations within a licensed establishment where patrons have not been permitted to have alcoholic beverages in the past, such as washrooms, hallways and stairwells.

The WHS Policy is designed to permit patrons to monitor their drinks and facilitate patron access to washrooms. The policy change is being made because of serious issues that have emerged in relation to unattended drinks, such as exposure to unknown substances.

While the conveyance and consumption of liquor will be permitted in these limited licensed areas, the sale and service of liquor will remain strictly prohibited. The limited licensing of these areas will also not result in any related increase in the overall capacity of the establishment and no separate capacity total will be assigned to them.

The WHS initiative is not mandatory. A licensee or applicant for a liquor sales licence must submit an Application for Washrooms, Hallways, Stairwells and Other Similar Areas to the AGCO, along with a sketch of the proposed limited licensed areas and adjoining licensed areas, to have these areas included as part of the licensed premises.

***The application needs to be fully approved by the AGCO before a licensee may permit liquor to be taken into these areas by patrons. Permitting liquor in these areas prior to full approval by the AGCO and a change to the liquor sales licence will subject a licensee to possible discipline under the Liquor Licence Act and its regulations.***

To qualify for limited licensing, an area must be under the exclusive control of the applicant, otherwise be eligible for licensing under the *Liquor Licence Act* and its regulations, and adjoin a licensed area to another or a licensed area to a washroom which is also under the exclusive control of the applicant. For example, an applicant may choose to permit patrons to transport their drinks from room to room, floor to floor and/or from the bar area to the washrooms.

The WHS initiative is available to all types of establishments with liquor sales licences and there is no fee attached to a WHS Application to ensure all areas appropriate for limited licensing are accommodated.

For further information about the WHS Policy, please visit the AGCO website at [www.agco.on.ca](http://www.agco.on.ca), or contact AGCO Customer Service at (416) 326-8700 or toll free in Ontario at 1-800-522-2876.