

Understanding Saskatchewan's Liquor Laws

A Reference Guide for Commercial Permittees

Contents	
Introduction	3
Serve It Right Saskatchewan	4
Minors.....	5
Intoxication.....	7
Hours of Sale and Consumption of Alcohol	8
Maintaining Order and Patron Conduct	9
Beverage Alcohol Service	10
Food Service Requirement	12
Maximum Capacity and Floor Area	13
Entertainment	14
Illegal Beverage Alcohol	15
Advertising and Promotions	16
Supplier Relationships	17
Liquor Inspections and Police - Your Obligations.....	18
Drug Activities.....	19
Penalties.....	20
SLGA Contact Information	21

Introduction

This is a reference guide for commercial permittees and their employees. It has been developed by Saskatchewan Liquor & Gaming Authority (SLGA) to increase awareness and educate commercial permittees and their employees about their responsibilities related to selling and serving beverage alcohol and operating their establishment.

Since this document is for general reference only, permittees are encouraged to contact SLGA's Licensing Branch of SLGA additional information, or clarification about SLGA policies.

Additionally, the [Commercial Liquor Permittee Manual](#) should be referred to for assistance in interpreting and applying the content in this document. The Commercial Liquor Permittee Manual can help permittees and their employees understand and comply with the requirements and responsibilities concerning the day-to-day operations of a permitted establishment. Specifically, the Commercial Liquor Permittee Manual highlights key provisions from *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997* and *The Alcohol Control Regulations, 2016*, and states SLGA's policies and standards. It is the responsibility of a permittee and the employees of an establishment to understand the Act and its regulations.

Owners, managers and employees of a permitted establishment are obligated to comply with the laws and offer responsible service to patrons. These responsibilities are clearly outlined in the Commercial Liquor Permittee Manual.

Serve It Right Saskatchewan

Serve It Right Saskatchewan (SIRS) is a mandatory training program provided by the Saskatchewan Tourism Education Council (STEC) created to encourage the responsible service of alcohol in Saskatchewan. It provides training for commercial permittees to help ensure that alcohol-related activities are conducted in a socially responsible manner.

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All employees involved in the sale and/or service of beverage alcohol must have obtained their SIRS

certification and new employees must have their SIRS training prior to beginning their first shift. This applies to all staff working in liquor permitted establishments including restaurants, bars and retail liquor stores. As well, new owners of permitted establishments must complete SIRS training prior to obtaining their permit from SLGA and the renewal of a liquor permit may be delayed by SLGA pending completion of the training by the owner.

For more information on the Serve It Right Saskatchewan training program, please contact:



Saskatchewan Tourism Education Council

[Tourism Saskatchewan](#)

102, 202 Fourth Avenue North

Saskatoon, SK S7K 0K1

Tel: 306-933-5900

Toll-free: 800-331-1529

Email: stec.training@sasktourism.com

Or

Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority

Liquor Inspection Services Branch

Toll-free: 844-669-7542

Minors

A minor in Saskatchewan is any person under the age of 19 years. It is unlawful for a permittee, an employee of a permittee or any other person to sell or serve beverage alcohol to a minor in a liquor permitted establishment or its adjacent areas. Minors are not allowed to handle alcohol in any capacity. Additionally, it is unlawful for a minor to be present in a permitted establishment or its adjacent areas unless authorized by *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act 1997*, *The Alcohol Control Regulation, 2016*, or a minors endorsement on a permit. Serious penalties will be imposed on permittees and/or staff serving beverage alcohol to minors.

It is your responsibility to detect minors. In fact, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act 1997* requires that permittees demand proof of age if it reasonably appears a person is a minor. If a person appears to be under 25 years of age and attempts to enter a permitted establishment where minors are prohibited, or attempts to purchase or consume beverage alcohol, it is recommended you obtain valid government identification and verify proof of age. If the first form of identification provided by the patron does not appear to be real and original, a second piece of identification can be requested. Permittees must be aware of false or fake identification.



Important Information

- Do not sell or give beverage alcohol to a minor;
- Do not allow a minor to handle alcohol in any capacity;
- Do not allow a minor to consume beverage alcohol in your establishment or its adjacent areas;
- Ensure that only adults (persons 19 years of age or older) are permitted to enter an establishment where minors are prohibited;
- Accept valid government ID as proof of age only if the picture appears genuine, the ID does not appear to have been tampered with, and the lettering does not appear to have been altered; and
- Ensure that beverage alcohol is not knowingly sold to an adult who may give it to someone under 19 years of age.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are minors allowed in a liquor permitted establishment?

Minors are only allowed in permitted establishments as non-drinking patrons when allowed by the type of liquor permit issued. For example, minors are allowed in a restaurant or golf club as a patron, but are not allowed in a tavern or the lounge area of a restaurant.

If minors are not allowed in my establishment, do I have to put up a sign indicating this?

SLGA recommends that a “No Minors” sign is posted at all entrances to permitted establishments where minors are prohibited.

Can a parent provide beverage alcohol to a minor in a permitted establishment?

No. No one can provide beverage alcohol to a minor in a permitted establishment. Permittees are responsible for ensuring this does not occur.

Can I hire or employ a minor in my permitted establishment?

It is unlawful to employ a minor to sell, serve or handle beverage alcohol in any permitted establishment. However, a minor can be hired by a permittee to repair/service equipment or to provide professional entertainment services in a permitted establishment under the supervision of the permittee or manager. These minors may enter and remain in the permitted establishment for the time required to complete the repairs/service or to provide the professional entertainment. Minors are also allowed to be employed in the non-permitted areas of minor restricted establishments (i.e. kitchen area of a tavern); however, they are not allowed to enter the permitted area or handle alcohol in any manner.

What forms of identification does SLGA consider acceptable?

SLGA considers the following to be acceptable valid forms of identification:

- Primary
 - Photo Driver's Licence
 - Firearms Registration Card
 - Passport
 - Armed Forces I.D. Card
 - Government Photo I.D.
 - Landed Immigrant Photo I.D.
- Secondary
 - Credit/Debit Card
 - Birth Certificate
 - Post-Secondary Photo I.D. Card

How can I tell if the I.D. produced is authentic?

The identification produced by a person should be carefully examined to ensure that:

- The photograph is authentic and has not been substituted;
- Any plastic laminate has not been tampered with;
- The name and date of birth has not been altered;
- The signature on photo identification matches other forms of identification; and
- The authenticity of the identification is verified by comparing it to a known legitimate piece of identification. For example, compare an individual's driver's licence with your own driver's licence.

Am I required to ask for more than one piece of ID?

If you are satisfied that the primary ID presented is valid and belongs to the individual presenting it, one piece of ID is acceptable. However, if you have any concerns that the ID is not valid or has been altered, you should request another piece of ID for comparison.

Intoxication

It is prohibited by law to sell, deliver or serve beverage alcohol to a patron who is, or appears to be, intoxicated. It is also illegal to allow an intoxicated person to consume beverage alcohol or play Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs). Always remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that your patrons are not served to the point of intoxication.

Common signs of intoxication include: staggering; general lack of co-ordination; inability to understand simple instructions; boisterous behaviour; disorderly appearance; bloodshot eyes; slurred speech; inappropriate speech volume; decreased alertness; or noticeably shallow breathing. Additionally, a loss of inhibitions or changes to behaviour, reactions, and co-ordination over time are indicators that an individual may be becoming intoxicated. Each patron is unique therefore any one or more of the above signs may be a sign of possible intoxication.



Important Information:

- Do not sell, deliver or serve beverage alcohol to a patron who is, or appears to be, intoxicated;
- Do not allow an intoxicated patron to consume beverage alcohol;
- Do not allow an intoxicated person to remain in your establishment except to allow for reasonable arrangements to ensure the person's safety (ie. ride home); and
- Do not allow violent, quarrelsome or disorderly patrons to enter or remain in your establishment.

It is strongly recommended that commercial permittees support a safe ride program. Establishments may prevent impaired driving by offering non-alcoholic drink specials to designated drivers. There are a number of companies and organizations in the province that offer a ride home as well as vehicle transport.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I refuse to serve an intoxicated patron?

Yes. It is illegal to sell, deliver or serve beverage alcohol to a patron who is or appears to be intoxicated.

Who is responsible for deciding when someone is intoxicated?

Any employee within your establishment can decide when a patron has become intoxicated. It is the responsibility of all employees to determine when a patron has become intoxicated.

If I cut off beverage alcohol service to a patron, should I remove the beverage alcohol they have not yet consumed?

Yes. Intoxicated persons are not allowed to continue consuming beverage alcohol.

Can I be held liable if an intoxicated person hurts themselves or others?

Yes. The permittee, and/or employees may be held liable if any person who is intoxicated and who is (or was) in the permitted establishment causes or suffers any injuries or damages.

Hours of Sale and Consumption of Alcohol

The maximum hours during which beverage alcohol can be served are from 9:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. Consumption of beverage alcohol is permitted for a maximum of one hour after that time. The maximum hours that beverage alcohol service and consumption are permitted are listed on your SLGA liquor permit which must be posted at all times. It is illegal for you to sell, serve or deliver beverage alcohol or to allow consumption of beverage alcohol outside the authorized hours. In all permitted establishments, all beverage alcohol must be cleared from tables when the consumption of beverage alcohol is not allowed.

Important Information:

- A commercial permittee may open the permitted establishment every day for beverage alcohol service.
- You may sell, provide or serve beverage alcohol for on-site consumption from 9:30 a.m. until 2 a.m. the following day (2:30 a.m. on December 31).
- All beverage alcohol must be consumed before 3 a.m. This applies to all patrons in your establishment.
- At or before 3 a.m. (3:30 a.m. on December 31), all beverage alcohol must have been removed from patron areas.

	OPEN	CLOSE
SUNDAY	_____ to _____	_____ to _____
MONDAY	_____ to _____	_____ to _____
TUESDAY	_____ to _____	_____ to _____
WEDNESDAY	_____ to _____	_____ to _____
THURSDAY	_____ to _____	_____ to _____
FRIDAY	_____ to _____	_____ to _____
SATURDAY	_____ to _____	_____ to _____

COMPANY NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____

Come back again!

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I allow my patrons a one-hour consumption period if I close early?

Yes. It is suggested you allow patrons one hour to consume their beverage alcohol from the close of beverage alcohol service.

Can I pre-pour drinks prior to 2 a.m. for service after 2 a.m.?

No. You cannot supply beverage alcohol to anyone after 2 a.m. for consumption in the premises.

What if my lounge is busy and we can't get all the liquor orders filled by 2 a.m.? Can we serve the drinks if they were ordered and paid for prior to 2 a.m.?

No. All sales and service must be completed prior to 2 a.m.

Can my staff consume beverage alcohol?

Yes, but as a best practice, staff should not be consuming alcohol while working. Additionally, after the one-hour consumption period, no one (including employees) can legally consume alcohol within your establishment.

Am I required to post my hours of operation?

No. However, we recommend the hours be posted for the information of your customers.

Can I close early to allow my staff to play the VLTs?

As a good customer service gesture, owners, managers and other staff with the ability to control access to the VLTs are strongly encouraged not to play the VLTs located at their site at any time. VLTs should be made available to play only when the site is open to the general public. VLTs should not be played if your establishment is closed to the general public.

Maintaining Order and Patron Conduct

Permitted establishments must be operated in an orderly manner. You cannot allow unruly behaviour or illegal activities on the premises. This also includes monitoring for any illegal substances and weapons. The permittee and the manager should have house policies and ensure that employees are knowledgeable and trained to help them recognize the signs of trouble and prevent violence before it occurs.

You are encouraged to intervene early if a patron starts disturbing another patron. Being proactive can help prevent situations from escalating. Treat patrons with respect and listen attentively to their concerns while maintaining a calm disposition. Defusing situations is a skill that can be developed and can be helpful in preventing an unruly patron's behaviour from escalating.

Ensure that the area outside of your establishment is well lit and order is maintained in parking lots and on sidewalks around the establishment. Maintain a log of incidents to have an accurate record if something does occur and report incidents of violence to the local police.

Important Information:

- Do not allow illegal activities to take place in your permitted establishment. This includes activities such as: having, buying or selling illegal drugs; carrying dangerous weapons; prostitution or pimping; and gang activity; and
- Report illegal activity to the police immediately.

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I responsible for operations outside and around my establishment?

You have a responsibility to deter disorderly conduct on property adjacent to and in the vicinity of your establishment. This includes controlling and monitoring line ups and minimizing damage, nuisance or other harm to property that may be caused by the actions of people attempting to enter or leave your establishment.

Can a person who causes a disturbance be charged?

Yes, an individual causing a disturbance in a permitted establishment can be charged by local police.

Can I request a person leave my establishment?

Yes, provided you have a valid reason. A commercial permittee cannot violate [The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code](#) which prohibits discrimination based on religion, creed, sexual orientation or several other possible factors. For all other situations, a permittee or the employees of an establishment may forbid a person's entry or ask a person to leave an establishment at any time. If the person refuses, you can call the police for assistance.

Can we take beverage alcohol away from a person who is leaving the premises?

Yes, beverage alcohol sold in the permitted establishment must be consumed within the establishment.

Beverage Alcohol Service



Drink Sizes and Price Restrictions

The price and the amount of beverage alcohol in a drink must be readily available to patrons. Permittees are not allowed to sell or offer to sell beverage alcohol for less than the [approved minimum prices](#).

Minimum price means the lowest price at which a permittee may sell beverage alcohol at any time, even during drink specials, promotions and happy hours.

Note: GST and LCT are included in the approved minimum prices.

Selling and Serving Beverage Alcohol

Permittees must ensure that beverage alcohol is dispensed and served in compliance with any applicable health and safety standards and in compliance with the permittee's obligations under *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*, *The Alcohol Control Regulations, 2016*, and any policies or terms and conditions applicable to the permit including:

- Ensuring that information about the quantity of alcohol contained in each drink is made reasonably available to patrons; and
- Ensuring that the permittee and employees of the establishment are able to monitor and control access to the consumption of alcohol.

Important Information:

- To sell beverage alcohol in an establishment, a permittee must have a valid permit issued by SLGA.
- Beverage alcohol must be sold at or above the minimum prices set by SLGA.
- Except for products sold for off-site consumption, a patron who purchases beverage alcohol in an establishment may only consume it within the establishment.
- Permittees are required to prevent patrons from taking open beverage alcohol outside of a permitted area.
- Only an employee (19 years of age or older) of a permittee can carry alcohol through a non-permitted area.
- Beverage alcohol must be stored in its original bottle. It cannot be poured or mixed into a bottle with a different brand name.
- Beverage alcohol for mixed drinks or shooters cannot be diluted in any way such as adding other brands of beverage alcohol, flavoring agents, mix or ice until requested by a patron.
- Beverage alcohol may not be pre-mixed by the permittee or their employees with another beverage alcohol or liquid, unless otherwise approved by the SLGA.
- Beverage alcohol must be sold by the serving. Multiple drink promotions (e.g. "all you can drink" for a fixed cost) and free beverage alcohol specials are not allowed.

Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of beverage alcohol menu is required?

An alcohol menu is not required by SLGA but is highly recommended.

Do I have to list the kinds of beverage alcohol in each drink?

If providing an alcohol menu, you can use collective words such as beer, cocktail, highball or shooter to describe a drink. If asked by a patron, the contents of a drink as well as the amount of alcohol must be provided.

Can I allow patrons to pour spirits themselves?

No. Self-service of spirits from the bottle is prohibited.

Is there a restriction on the number of drinks a patron can possess?

Although there is no specific rule on the maximum number of drinks a patron can possess, it is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure that all beverage alcohol service is done in a safe and responsible manner. You are responsible for ensuring that patrons are not allowed to consume to the point of intoxication. Your establishment may want to set its own policy regarding the number of drinks a patron can possess at one time as a way to help minimize the risk of overconsumption.

Are there any other restrictions on beverage alcohol pricing?

Yes. Free beverage alcohol specials and promotions of 'All You Can Drink' for a fixed cost are prohibited. Specials involving drinks 'two for the price of one' are allowed as long as the price meets the minimum pricing standards.

Food Service Requirement

All permittees must provide food service satisfactory to SLGA's food service requirement. This food must normally be available during the hours that beverage alcohol is offered for sale.

Food availability is part of SLGA's commitment to social responsibility. Eating a meal can slow the rate of alcohol absorption in an individual and having food and non-alcohol drink options available allows for alternatives to alcohol consumption.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is every permittee required to have food service available?

Yes. Permittees must have a food menu available when beverage alcohol service is being provided. In the majority of permitted establishments, a variety of light meals and non-alcoholic beverages must be available to patrons. A light meal generally consists of one item, typically a smaller serving that may be referred to as an appetizer (e.g. nachos, dry ribs, chicken fingers, sandwiches, salads, etc.). Restaurants are required to have meals available at all times beverage alcohol service is being provided. Taverns with Daily Family Dining endorsements must have a brunch/lunch, supper buffet or comparable meal service available to patrons.



Maximum Capacity and Floor Area

The capacity for an establishment is determined by the National Fire Code of Canada (Maximum Occupant Load Certificate). SLGA does not provide the capacity for commercial permittees. Please contact your local municipal government or fire department to obtain your Maximum Occupant Load Certificate.

Permittees are responsible for ensuring their establishment is compliant with National Fire Code of Canada requirements and that the total number of all individuals in the permitted establishment (including staff) does not exceed the maximum rated capacity at any time. The number of people on the premises must be continuously monitored. You must supervise the number of people entering and leaving so you never exceed the maximum capacity. SLGA reserves the right to refuse or revoke a permit and/or endorsement or to impose sanctions where an establishment is not compliant with fire and building codes.

Important Information:

- Ensure the occupancy limit (number of persons including employees) for the establishment is not exceeded.
- The establishment's occupancy limit can be obtained from your local fire authority.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the Maximum Occupant Load Certificate include staff and patrons?

Yes. Everyone on the premises, including staff and patrons, are counted as occupants.

Does the Maximum Occupant Load Certificate have to be posted?

Yes. The Maximum Occupant Load Certificate must be prominently posted in the permitted establishment.

What are the consequences if my establishment exceeds the maximum occupancy allowed?

Disciplinary action by SLGA can include revoking a permit and/or endorsement and/or imposing sanctions. Additionally, the Fire Department could also lay charges or fines on the permitted establishment.

Entertainment

The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997 prohibits permittees from allowing any entertainment, game, sport or other activity in an establishment that:

- Is unlawful (e.g. illegal gambling);
- May be detrimental to the orderly operation of the establishment;
- Has been prohibited by the municipality; or
- Is prohibited by *The Alcohol Control Regulations, 2016* (e.g. entertainment featuring nudity, strip tease, etc.).

If you have questions regarding types of entertainment, contact SLGA or refer to the “Entertainment Section” in the Commercial Liquor Permittee Manual.

Important Information:

- Entertainment must be legal and not disruptive to the operation of the establishment.
- Permittees are prohibited from having or allowing any nude activity or entertainment, except under very limited conditions. You should contact SLGA’s Licensing Branch prior to scheduling this type of entertainment to ensure the specific conditions can be met.

Frequently Asked Questions

What criteria is used in deciding which games or entertainment are acceptable?

Entertainment or games must be lawful. Generally, entertainment that is degrading, dehumanizing or causes anyone involved or watching to be distressed or concerned for their safety is unlawful. Any entertainment, sport or games that involve nudity is prohibited unless conditions are met.

Do I need approval to have a striptease form of entertainment in my establishment?

Yes. Certain restrictions apply to this type of entertainment and you should contact SLGA’s Licensing Branch prior to scheduling any strip tease entertainment.

Can I allow card tournaments in my establishments?

Card games, which do not involve the exchange of money, are allowed. However, all casino card games, such as poker and black jack, where money is typically exchanged are prohibited unless operated by a charity under a Texas Hold’em Poker Tournament licence issued by SLGA.



Illegal Beverage Alcohol

Commercial permittees may only purchase beverage alcohol products from:

- Retail Store Permittees; and/or
- Saskatchewan craft manufacturers

Unauthorized or illegal beverage alcohol products cannot be present or sold in the establishment. Examples of unauthorized or illegal beverage alcohol product include:

- Beverage alcohol purchased by the permittee from a source not approved by SLGA;
- Homemade wine, beer, cider or spirits; and
- Any beverage alcohol brought into the establishment by the permittee, employees, or by a liquor representative.

Important Information:

- Homemade beverage alcohol of any kind (wine, beer, cider or spirits) cannot be sold or consumed within a permitted establishment.
- If your restaurant allows the ability to Bring Your Own Wine (BYOW), only commercially manufactured sealed bottle(s) of wine can be brought into the permitted establishment.
- Only beverage alcohol that has been commercially manufactured and purchased from an approved retail store located within Saskatchewan can be sold or consumed in a permitted establishment.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can a patron bring their own wine into permitted establishments?

Yes, a manufactured sealed bottle(s) of wine may only be brought into a restaurant that allows this to their patrons.

Can homemade wine be served in permitted establishments or at special occasion permit functions?

No. Permittees can only possess, sell or serve beverage alcohol that has been purchased from authorized sources, such as a Retail Store Permittee. No other beverage alcohol product is permitted. Additionally, if you have a banquet room and rent it for special occasion permit functions, it is your responsibility to ensure that homemade wine or any illegal products are not brought into your establishment.

What happens if SLGA inspectors or police find illegal beverage alcohol on the premises?

All products and containers of illegal beverage alcohol may be seized and destroyed. Permittees may be subject to prosecution and penalties may be imposed by SLGA.

What should I do if someone offers to sell me illegal beverage alcohol?

Try to obtain as much information as possible about the seller such as description, vehicle, licence plate number, etc. Contact SLGA and call your local police.

What should I do if I am aware of other permitted establishments selling or serving illegal beverage alcohol?

Contact SLGA Liquor Inspection Services at 1-844-669-7542 to report illegal beverage alcohol.

Advertising and Promotions

Advertising standards set by both SLGA and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) apply to all advertising and promotion practices by permitted establishments. Information about these standards can be found in the [Commercial Liquor Permittee Manual](#).

Permittees may offer promotional packages if they meet certain conditions. All beverage alcohol must comply with the minimum prices set by SLGA. This applies to any “2 for 1” or “Happy Hour” promotions. Self-service or “All You Can Drink” for a set price are both prohibited.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I advertise regular prices in the newspaper or on the radio?

Yes, you can advertise (including prices) in newspapers or other print media. When advertising in other forms of media, permittees must adhere to the standards established by the [CRTC](#).

Are there certain things I should not be advertising when it comes to beverage alcohol?

Yes. Advertising must not: be targeted at minors, encourage non-drinkers to consume beverage alcohol, promote irresponsible beverage alcohol consumption or service, show heavy or prolonged beverage alcohol consumption, give the impression beverage alcohol benefits a person’s health or negatively refer to another company, business or product. Additional information about the CRTC code for broadcast advertising can be found within the [Commercial Liquor Permittee Manual](#).



Can I advertise drink specials?

Yes. Permittees may advertise beverage alcohol prices; however, free beverage alcohol specials or “All You Can Drink” for a fixed cost promotion are prohibited and may not be advertised.

Can I advertise brands of beverage alcohol?

Yes. The advertising may include a featured product(s) and price(s). The permittee must receive permission in advance from the beverage alcohol supplier to use the brand logo, type set or trademark. A permittee is prohibited from receiving or requesting any benefit (money or other) from a beverage alcohol supplier for advertising its brand.

Can I have a contest providing beverage alcohol as a prize or provide a bar tab as a prize?

The only time beverage alcohol can be offered as a prize is when a charity obtains a raffle licence that allows alcohol as a prize. If an approved raffle is held in a permitted establishment, the alcohol prize may only be given to the winner in a closed container as he or she is leaving the premises. It cannot be opened or consumed on premise.

Supplier Relationships

For the purposes of this document, the term ‘supplier’ also includes an agent or a manufacturer’s agent.

Exclusivity

Permittees are prohibited from entering an agreement with any supplier that requires the exclusion of another supplier’s product. Retailers are allowed to negotiate for incentives/inducements from suppliers provided these inducements do not require the exclusion of any competitor’s products.

Inducements

Liquor suppliers may offer promotional items to owners or managers of businesses with liquor permits. It is important to know what can be offered and accepted.

SLGA prohibits a permittee from accepting financial or material inducements from a supplier. The purpose of this is to ensure the products are chosen based on factors such as quality, price, and consumer demand as opposed to inducements offered by a supplier.

A permittee, or applicants for a permit, may purchase or accept free of charge promotional items or services from a supplier or any of its directors, officers, shareholders, employees or agents, provided that the promotional items or services are:

- Non-essential to the operation of the permitted establishment;
- Have a minimal value; and
- For promotional use within the permitted establishment, or in exceptional cases, for the general benefit of the business.

Examples of acceptable promotional items include table toppers, draught beer tap handles and interior and exterior signage promoting specific products (provided that the signage is of minimal value). Permittees are responsible to ensure that beverage alcohol sale activities do not unlawfully promote one product over another.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can a supplier pay for a business trip relating to their product?

Yes. A supplier may pay the costs for a permittee’s business trip pertaining to the beverage alcohol industry (e.g. conference or seminar).

Can a supplier purchase drinks for my patrons?

Yes. A supplier who is physically at the establishment may purchase beverage alcohol for patrons in the establishment for the purpose of promoting products. This is subject to the requirements established in the [Commercial Liquor Permittee Manual](#).

What types of inducement items are not allowed?

Examples of items that are not allowed include: payments or rebates of monetary value, interior decorating or renovations, furniture and equipment, menu printing, alcohol dispensing equipment, vacations, or season tickets to sporting or other events.

What types of items can a supplier give owners and managers?

Items that can be used in operation of the bar, but are not necessary to the business, are permitted. This includes aprons, hats, towels, bottle openers, corkscrews, coasters, flags, glasses, mugs, posters or tent cards.

Liquor Inspections and Police - Your Obligations

SLGA operates a regulatory services program to minimize the public health and safety risks associated with beverage alcohol, to provide an orderly environment for the sale and service of alcohol and to maintain the integrity of the beverage alcohol industry. SLGA's Liquor Inspectors have the right to examine and make copies of all liquor records and you are expected to answer all reasonable questions about the establishment's management and operations to the best of your ability.

SLGA conducts inspections and investigations concerning the operation of permitted liquor establishments. *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997* provides SLGA the authority to inspect the premises at all reasonable times. An inspector may visit for purposes including: ensuring compliance, providing consultation, investigating complaints or examining construction or renovations.

Co-operation with the Police

Police officers have authority to issue tickets for breaches of The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997. A good working relationship with the local police services is beneficial to your operations.

Important Information:

- SLGA Inspectors and Police Officers **must** be allowed immediate entry to the permitted establishment at all times.
- All employees in permitted establishments are required to co-operate fully with SLGA Inspectors and police at all times.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can we identify an inspector?

Each inspector carries SLGA issued identification.

Can an inspector seize liquor from my permitted establishment?

Yes. An inspector has the right to seize liquor if he or she believes it was acquired unlawfully.

Why do inspectors check areas other than the licensed area?

Additional areas of a premise must meet particular requirements as determined by SLGA. This includes areas adjacent to the area where liquor is consumed.

When should the police be called?

The safety of patrons and staff is always paramount. If at any time you cannot ensure this, the local authorities should be called. Typically when police are called, it is because an offence has been committed or suspected. If police are called, be prepared to:

- Identify the people involved
- Supply the facts regarding the incident
- Make notes and, if requested, provide a statement
- Provide evidence in court

Can a Police Officer enter my permitted establishment on a walk through?

Yes. Police Officers have the right to enter and inspect permitted establishments at any time.

Drug Activities

Unlawful activity in a permitted establishment, including drug activity, is not acceptable at any time. It is expected that corrective action will be taken immediately if such activity is noted and that employees will cooperate fully with police agencies investigating such activities.

Important Information:

- Do not allow illegal activities by patrons or employees to take place in your permitted establishment. This includes activities such as: having, buying or selling illegal drugs; carrying dangerous weapons; prostitution or pimping; and gang activity; and
- Report illegal activity to the police immediately.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I look for to determine if patrons are selling or buying drugs?

- Watch for the person that constantly meets with different people, going with them to the washroom or outside. Watch for someone who frequently receives or makes telephone calls or text messages.
- Check the washrooms and the surroundings of your establishment for people dealing in drugs or using them.
- Drugs are commonly sold by concealing them in cigarette packages or by passing them under a table.

Are there favourite places where dealers hide their drugs?

Yes. Check washroom ceiling tiles, light fixtures and under sinks. Drugs can be stored in torn chairs or taped under tables. Outside dealers may use garbage cans, telephone poles, or their vehicles.

What should I do if I suspect drugs are being sold in my establishment?

Contact your local police agency immediately. Be prepared to give them descriptions of the possible dealers when they frequent the establishment, or any other information (such as videos or licence plate numbers) to help police in their investigation.

As a permittee, what can I do to help detect and minimize drug use and sale in my establishment?

- Watch for any suspicious actions by employees or patrons.
- Establish strict conditions of employment (zero tolerance) for being involved or failing to report drug activities to management and/or local police.
- Provide adequate lighting in your establishment's rooms, washrooms, entrances and exits.
- Support local police "walk through programs".



Penalties

SLGA Sanctions

In situations where a permittee violates any requirement or restriction, SLGA may impose sanctions to protect the public and ensure future compliance. SLGA's decision to impose a particular sanction against a permittee is based on the evaluation of several factors, including: compliance history of the permittee, the nature of the violation, and the effects of the sanctions.

Where a permittee or the employees of an establishment commit a violation, SLGA has the discretion to impose any of the following actions against the permittee:

- Issue a warning (Notice for Improvement, Director Warning, or Vice-President Warning);
- Assess an administrative penalty (fine) to a maximum of \$10,000;
- Suspend a permit; or
- Cancel a permit.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I be issued fines by both the police and SLGA?

Yes. SLGA is independent of your local authorities and both organizations may have separate fines and investigations.

SLGA Contact Information

General Inquiries:

General Information: (306) 787-5563
Toll-Free: (800) 667-7565
Fax: (306) 787-8981

Liquor Inspections Branch:

Director, Liquor Inspections (306) 787-8637
Manager, Liquor Licensing (306) 787-4190
Manager, Liquor Inspections (Regina) (306) 787-1896
Manager, Liquor Inspections (Saskatoon) (306) 933-7530
Toll-free: (844) 669-7542
Website: www.slga.com
Email: LL@slga.gov.sk.ca

Regina Office

Saskatchewan Liquor & Gaming Authority (SLGA)
12th Floor
2500 Victoria Avenue.
Regina, SK S4P 3X3

Saskatoon Office

Saskatchewan Liquor & Gaming Authority (SLGA)
201 1st Avenue South
Saskatoon SK S7K 2H6

References

[*The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*](#)
[*The Alcohol Control Regulations, 2016*](#)
[SLGA Commercial Permittee Manual](#)