

Liquor licences in the Brisbane City Council area

Conditions relating to drinking practices were introduced in the Brisbane City Council area in 2006. Binge drinking has been a major factor in alcohol-related incidents in and around licensed premises and the conditions aim to curb irresponsible drinking and significantly improve the safety of patrons, hospitality employees and the general public.

Which licensed premises are affected?

The requirements are part of the *17 point Brisbane City safety action plan* designed to increase public and patron safety in and around licensed premises in Brisbane. They apply to all licensed establishments with permission to trade beyond 1am in the Brisbane City Council area.

Are there any exemptions?

- premises in the Brisbane City Council area that are only authorised to trade after 1am on New Year's Day
- detached bottle shops
- part/s of the licensed premises used principally for the residential accommodation of guests.

Security providers

Security providers must maintain surveillance outside the licensed premises for at least one hour after the designated closing time of the premises (which includes the 30 minute 'grace period' that commences at closing time).

Licensees must employ the following ratio of security providers to patrons:

- One to 100 patrons or part thereof—one security provider
- more than 100 patrons but not more than 200 patrons—two security providers
- more than 200 patrons but not more than 300 patrons—three security providers
- more than 300 patrons but not more than 400 patrons—four security providers
- more than 400 patrons but not more than 500 patrons—five security providers
- plus at least one security provider for every 250 patrons (or part) thereafter.

All security providers must:

- be licensed under the *Security Providers Act 1993*
- have completed responsible service of alcohol training regardless of whether they are employed or contracted to the premises

- maintain surveillance from 11pm on nights when the premises trades after 1am and must remain outside the premises until at least one hour after the designated closing time
- be dressed in a way that distinguishes them from the crowd.

This condition will apply only on nights where a venue actually trades after 1am. It will not apply on nights where the premises close by 1am.

Restaurants (holding a commercial other licence with the principal activity of provision of meals), will be exempt from the requirement to employ security providers in accordance with the ratio. This is because the principal activity of a restaurant is not the sale of alcohol and there is little evidence to suggest that restaurants significantly contribute to alcohol related violence.

Closed-circuit television (CCTV)

Licensees in the Brisbane City Council area must have CCTV at each patron entrance and exit of the licensed premises.

CCTV equipment must meet minimum operational requirements and must be filming from 8pm until one hour after trading. If the CCTV equipment malfunctions or is otherwise not operational anytime after 1am, the licensee must close the licensed premises.

CCTV equipment must only be operated by the licensee or approved manager.

Licensees must also display signage to alert patrons they are being recorded. Signs are available to print from the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR) website at www.olgr.qld.gov.au under 'management signs'.

Incident register

Licensees must keep an 'incident register' which records:

- incidents in which a person is injured
- incidents where a person is removed from a premises.

Each incident recorded must be signed off by each crowd controller or member of staff involved in the incident. The incident recorded should contain the following information:

- date and time
- where in the premises the incident occurred
- description or name of the persons involved
- details of the incident, injury, or actions of security providers.

The incident register must be kept in a secure place and be available for inspection by OLGR investigators.

Training register

Licensees must keep a 'training register' which records:

- current training course certificates of staff
- matters relating to training.

The training register must be kept in a secure place and be available for inspection by OLGR investigators.

Drink promotions and happy hours

Drink promotions and happy hours are still able to be held, however they must be conducted in a responsible manner.

'Happy hours' include any temporary, time limited discount on a trading day for the relevant part of the premises (e.g. public bar, nightclub, etc) traditionally known as a 'happy hour', whether or not the activity is actually advertised or otherwise called a 'happy hour' ('publican's shout', 'afternoon special').

The following 'happy hour' activities are prohibited in the Brisbane City Council area:

- a happy hour that is more than two hours between 7am and 9pm
- a happy hour that is more than one hour between 9pm and 1am
- having a happy hour or part of a happy hour after 1am
- more than one happy hour on a day, without at least one hour between the end of each happy hour and the start of the following happy hour
- a happy hour that starts before 9pm and ends after 9pm.

Drinking practices—competitions and games

Licensees must not conduct games and competitions that encourage irresponsible or reckless alcohol consumption.

Under the *Liquor Act 1992*, licensees in the Brisbane City Council area which are authorised to trade between 1am and 5am must not conduct competitions or games at any time that:

- involve the consumption of liquor as the competition
- offer free or discounted liquor as a prize.

The regulation does not include other contests or games which are decided by other skills, talent, strength, chance or luck.

Licensees can continue to provide competitions and games as long as they are conducted responsibly.

Acceptable competitions and games

- buy product to receive 'scratch' card to win merchandise, food or take away liquor
- buy four or less standard liquor drinks to receive an entry into a non-liquor prize draw
- incentives for staff of licensed premises to promote brand switching
- trivia night, karaoke, talent quest
- prizes of promotional products other than liquor—food, accommodation,
- t-shirts, key rings, stubby holders etc
- prizes of packaged liquor meant for removal from the premises.

Prohibited competitions and games

- buy product to receive 'scratch' card for chance to win liquor for consumption on the premises
- 'last man standing', 'all you can drink', 'skolling competition'
- incentives for staff of licensed premises to encourage patrons to drink more alcohol
- competitions where the prize is a bar tab
- competitions involving consumption direct from a yard glass, jug or other container hold.

Need more assistance?

OLGR will assist licensees to comply with the legislation. However, OLGR does not pre-approve competitions, games or other activities or provide legal advice in respect of particular scenarios.

For further information, please contact the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation on 13 13 04 or visit www.olgr.qld.gov.au

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