

Hotel licence - general bar



Trade & Investment
Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing

This fact sheet outlines the fundamental requirements when applying for a general bar licence. It also outlines the key trading entitlements associated with this type of liquor licence.

What is a general bar licence?

A general bar licence is a limited type of hotel licence suited to venues that want to operate a bar, but do not want to operate gaming machines or offer takeaway alcohol sales. It also allows a venue to operate dining facilities, accommodation and public entertainment (if approved by the local council).

A general bar licence is subject to most of the regulatory controls that apply to premises operating under a hotel licence. For example:

- it must be open to the public (and not run as a private club)
- free drinking water must be available to patrons whenever alcohol is served
- a sign must be displayed at the front of the premises that shows the name of the premises, the type of liquor licence held (and that the premises holds a general bar licence) and the name of the licensee
- under 18s are permitted only in those areas of the premises where a minors area authorisation has been approved by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority
- an incident register must be maintained where the premises regularly trades past midnight; and
- conditions can be imposed on the licence, either under the liquor laws or by the Director-General, NSW Trade & Investment or the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority

Applying for a general bar licence

Before applying for a general bar licence, the applicant must prepare a community impact statement (CIS) and lodge it with the licence application. A CIS helps determine the likely impact of the proposed venue and gauge the level of community support for the proposal.

More information about the community impact statement requirements is available at www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/liquor_CIS_home.asp

The application fee for a general bar licence is \$700. The application form can be completed online through www.licence.nsw.gov.au or downloaded at www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/liquor_forms.asp

The Authority will obtain a report from OLGR on the application.

More information about the application process, including requirements for advertising an application, is available at www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/liquor_home.asp

Trading hours for a general bar licence

Alcohol can be sold for consumption on the licensed premises at any time during the standard trading period between 5am - midnight (Monday - Saturday) and 10am - 10pm (Sundays).

Extended trading hours are possible for a general bar licence. If sought as part of the general bar licence application, the CIS would need to address issues relating to extended trading hours.

The table below outlines standard and extended trading hours for a general bar licence.

Daily 6-hour closure

A 6-hour closure period applies to all liquor licences granted from 30 October 2008 onwards, as well as existing licences that have an extended trading authorisation granted from that date.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is required to approve a 6-hour closure period for any particular licensed premises. It must approve a period that is appropriate to the particular premises and the circumstances, having regard to the objectives of the *Liquor Act 2007*.

Parliament has imposed a closure period for certain licences that commences at 4 am and concludes at 10 am each day. These are licences granted by the Local Court or licences granted between 30 October 2008 and 2 December 2008.

An application may be made to the Authority to change the 6-hour closure period (as previously

Important Information

Liquor licensing freeze applies to parts of City of Sydney

A freeze applies to the grant of certain types of liquor licences and trading authorisations for premises in prescribed freeze precincts in the City of Sydney local government area.

For more information about the freeze, visit www.olgr.nsw.gov.au

Hotel licence - general bar



Trading	Monday – Saturday	Sunday	Good Friday	Christmas Day
Standard hours*	5am – midnight*	10am – 10pm	12 noon – 10pm No takeaway sales	12 noon – 10pm (alcohol can only be served with or ancillary to a meal in a dining area)
Extended hours (if allowed)*	Midnight – 5am*	All areas: 10:00pm – midnight Premises located in the City of Sydney, Kings Cross precinct, Oxford Street, Darlinghurst precinct, and the Kosciuszko National Park only: Midnight – 5:00am	Not permitted	Not permitted

* These hours are subject to the 6-hour closure period. Refer to additional information contained in this fact sheet.

determined by the Authority or as imposed by the liquor legislation) on either a temporary or permanent basis, or for different closure periods to operate on different days of the week. An application fee applies.

The Authority encourages applicants to provide reasons and relevant information in support of the closure period which is proposed. Applicants should provide an account of the current or proposed mode of operation of the licensed premises, the demonstrated or likely needs of its patrons, the interests of the local community and the opinion (if any) of local Police towards the proposal.

Applicants should also address how the proposed closure period relates to those considerations that the Authority is required to consider under section 3(2) of the *Liquor Act 2007*, which are as follows:

- a) the need to minimise harm associated with misuse and abuse of alcohol (including harm arising from violence and other anti-social behaviour);
- b) the need to encourage responsible attitudes and practices towards the promotion, sale, supply, service and consumption of alcohol; and

c) the need to ensure that the sale, supply and consumption of alcohol contributes to, and does not detract from, the amenity of community life.

Primary purpose test

All hotel licences, including those operating as a general bar, must have the primary purpose of selling alcohol (i.e. operating as a bar).

Under 18s

Under 18s are only permitted in bar areas if the Authority has granted a minors area authorisation. A minors area authorisation allows under 18s in specified areas if they are accompanied by a responsible adult such as a parent or guardian. Further information is available at www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/liquor_home.asp

Under 18s are not allowed in other bar areas of the premises.

Signage

A general bar licence must display two signs:



Sign 1

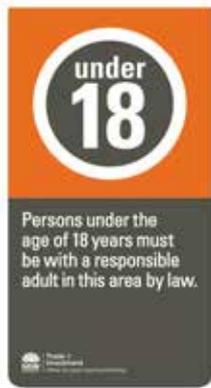
Sign 2

Sign 1 must be displayed wherever alcohol is sold on licensed premises i.e. at each bar and servery counter.

Sign 2 must be displayed in each bar area. A bar area is any area where alcohol is served, except those areas where under 18s are permitted to enter e.g. a part of the premises covered by a minors area authorisation.

Hotel licence - general bar

If a minors area authorisation has been approved, allowing under 18s with a responsible adult, display this sign:



Signage is available from www.olgr.nsw.gov.au or www.shop.nsw.gov.au

RSA training for staff

The licensee and all staff who serve alcohol must have completed an approved responsible service of alcohol course. The licensee must keep a copy of each RSA certificate in a register on the premises.

Food

Food must be available whenever alcohol is served on the premises.

Need more information?

Our website is constantly updated with information about the new liquor laws. Go to www.olgr.nsw.gov.au to access this information. Subscriptions to our e-news service are also available from this site.

For more information, call 02 9995 0300 or email info@olgr.nsw.gov.au

FAQs

Is there a patron limit on a general bar licence?

No, not under the liquor laws, but local councils can impose a limit on the number of people allowed in premises that operate under a general bar licence.

Can keno and wagering be conducted in the premises of a general bar licence?

No. Keno and wagering are prohibited.

What if I want to offer takeaway alcohol sales to patrons at my premises sometime in the future?

A general bar licence does not allow takeaway sales. It would be necessary to obtain a hotel licence to do this.

Can I sell alcohol at functions away from the premises?

Yes. Licensees of hotel licences, including general bar licences, can apply to the Authority to sell alcohol at a function away from the premises.

Can I provide entertainment?

Yes. If entertainment is only part of your venue's main business, then separate approval is not needed. However, if the entertainment will fundamentally change the principal use of your venue, development approval from your local council may be required.

To find out if you need development approval, contact your local council. Further information is also available on the Department of Planning & Environment's website www.planning.nsw.gov.au