

# Outdoor Open Air Permit (LSE) Quick Reference Guide Rev. 7/25

## Legal Hours of Alcohol Service

- **Monday through Thursday:** Alcohol allowed 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
- **Friday and Saturday:** Alcohol allowed 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.
- **Sunday:** Alcohol allowed 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
- **Holidays:** Alcohol allowed on Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Day. Extended hours until 3:00 a.m. on New Year's Eve
- Food can be served 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even if liquor permit suspended or lapsed
- *Local town/city rules may be more restrictive; check with your town hall*

## Permit Requirements

- **Renewal:** Annual permit renews every year. A reminder email will be sent to your email address on file. Seasonal permit does not renew. The expiration date is printed on your permit.
- **Permit framed and hung:** Place your permit in a frame and hang in your bar area in a place visible to the public.
- **Permittee's name:** Your permittee's name must be displayed on a sign and hung in a place visible to public.
- **Alcohol purchases:** You may only buy alcohol from a licensed wholesaler or Connecticut manufacturer. Beer must be purchased from wholesaler that services your town; beer sales are assigned to wholesalers by county.
- **Delivery invoice :** No alcohol delivery unless you or your employee signs invoice, which should note trade name and permittee's name, and signature or initials of employee. Stamp allowed.
- **Records needed on premises:** A 2-year record of alcohol invoices and daily sales for food and alcohol need to be kept at your premises. You may ask for permission to keep elsewhere.
- **Alcohol storage:** Must keep an approved lockable area large enough to store alcohol.
- **Beer line cleaning:** Your tap beer lines must be cleaned every 2 weeks, and cleaning recorded. The tap lever must be of same brand drawn from keg (unless generic lever used).
- **Food available:** Food must be available at all times alcohol sold.
- **Employee age:** An employee may be 16 years old, but must be 18 years old to sell or serve alcohol.
- **Age statement forms:** Required to be kept on premises at all times; utilize when a person's age is in question.

## Outdoor Open Air Permit Specific Rules

- **Minors eating:** Minors allowed in premises to eat. For areas without effective separation between bar and dining, minor may remain on premises while waiting for and consuming food made on premises. *No minor may sit or stand at a bar unless with a parent, guardian, or spouse.*
- **Entertainment:** You are only allowed to have the entertainment endorsed on your permit. Town approval required (e.g., live bands, acoustic performers, comedians).
- **Fencing:** Approved fencing may not be altered or removed without Liquor Control permission.
- **Premises Area:** Cannot be more than one acre and cannot change after approved by Liquor Control. If any tents or structures are added or removed, notify Liquor Control.
- **Food:** Food must always be available when alcohol sold. Can be made by premises, provided by a food truck or a caterer, be prepackaged, or satisfied by delivery menus.
- **Growlers:** May sell draught beer to go in sealed containers during package store hours (M-Sat, 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.). Limit 4 liters per person per day. Clean and sanitary containers must be supplied and filled by you.
- **Drinks to go:** No individual drinks or cocktails to go allowed; growlers only.

### Common Violations

- **Refilling:** You may *not* refill any liquor or wine bottle, even if brands are the same. All alcohol must be poured from its original container as received from wholesaler or manufacturer.
- **Sales to minors:** You may not sell to or serve anyone under 21 years of age (unless with parent, guardian, or spouse). *You have the right to refuse a sale to a suspected minor.*
- **Sales to intoxicated person:** You may not sell to or serve anyone showing signs of intoxication. *You have the right to refuse a sale to someone who is intoxicated.*
- **Hours:** You may only sell alcohol during the hours allowed by your permit; all alcohol must be cleared by stated hour.
- **Smoking:** All smoking prohibited in covered portions of your premise, including all electronic systems (cigarettes, cigars, vapes, pipes, hookahs, cigarillos, etc.).
- **Gambling:** No gambling on games of chance allowed unless allowed by CT Lottery and licensed by DCP Gaming Division. Example: no dice games, sports pools, or slot machines.
- **Sales to other permit holders:** You may not sell your alcohol stock to another permittee.

### Alcohol Beverage Rules

- **Service:** You may serve one person two drinks at a time. A pitcher or bottle of wine must be served to more than one person.
- **Open bar:** Not allowed unless area rented for a private party by a customer and otherwise closed to public.
- **Drinking games:** No games that involve drinking or alcohol as prizes.
- **Bottomless:** "Bottomless mimosa", "all you can drink happy hour," etc. are prohibited.
- **Discrimination:** Promotions must apply to all patrons. "Ladies nights", etc. are prohibited if deal is based on age, gender, sexual orientation, or other protected classifications.

### Update Your Information

- **Your email:** It is your responsibility to update contact information with DCP, especially email address and telephone number. We send renewals and permits via email.
- **E-License account:** Set up your eLicense account with the username provided to you by the Department. You will use your eLicense account to renew your permit, cancel your permit, update contact information, submit forms, and request changes to your permit.
- **Permittee changes:** You may assign a new permittee; requires a short application.
- **Ownership changes:** Any change in ownership or stock must be reported to DCP. You cannot transfer your permit to a new restaurant owner. New business owners need their own permit.
- **Seasonal reapplication:** Reuse existing eLicense account to apply for new seasonal permit in the next year.

### **Contact Liquor Control :**

[www.ct.gov/dcp/liquorcontrol](http://www.ct.gov/dcp/liquorcontrol) ♦ [dcp.liquorcontrol@ct.gov](mailto:dcp.liquorcontrol@ct.gov) ♦ 860-713-6200 **(This guide for general reference only; not a full description of all obligations)**