

Restaurant Liquor Permit (LIR/LRW) 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

- **Yearly renewal:** You must renew your permit every year. A reminder email will be sent to your email address on file. 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 next to the main entrance in a place visible from sidewalk or street.
- **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 restaurant 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:** Hot meals must be regularly served; hot meals normally require sitting to eat and use of tableware.
- **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.

Restaurant Specific Rules

- **Minors eating:** Minors allowed to eat in restaurant. If premises has a separate barroom with separation from dining room, minors cannot be in barroom alone, even to eat, without parent, guardian, or spouse. *No minor may sit or stand at a bar unless with 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).
- **Drinks to go:** May sell securely sealed containers of alcohol to go *with food prepared on premises* during normal legal hours. Does not need to be in manufacturer's original container, but cannot use a cup with lid having sipping holes or straw holes. Beverage must be placed in bag by employee. Limits: 196 oz. of beer; 1L of spirits; 1.5L of wine. You must follow all local ordinances. LRW limited to beer and wine.
- **Catering off premises:** May engage in catering events and provide alcohol off the permit premises, but must notify the department through their eLicense account 24 hours prior to the event. (LRW limited to wine and beer.)
- **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.

- **Other permits:** May hold café permit, hotel

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 premises, 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.
- **Partially consumed wine:** A dining patron may take an opened bottle of wine home with them if it was purchased and consumed with a meal. Bottle must be securely sealed and put in a bag by employee.
- **Open bar:** Not allowed unless area rented for a private party by a customer.
- **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.

Contact Liquor Control :

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