

---

## Transfer of Liquor License Ownership and Physical Relocation

Approval Date: 23 December 2021

Effective Date: 23 December 2021

Version Control: 1.0

Last Revision: draft

Approved By: John MacDonald, Executive  
Director

---

### I. POLICY OBJECTIVE

To outline when liquor licenses can undergo both a transfer of ownership and a relocation.

### II. DEFINITIONS

None.

### III. APPLICATION

This policy applies to all holders of a Liquor License.

### IV. POLICY

The VLT Regulations specify how VLT registration certificates are handled when a liquor licensed premises encounters a change in ownership.

- 4 (1) No person other than the Lottery Corporation or a licensee shall conduct and manage a video lottery in the Province.
- (2) A registration certificate granted by the Executive Director to a licensee shall be prominently displayed by the licensee in the approved premises where the approved device in respect of which it was issued is located, and shall not be transferable or assignable without the approval of the Executive Director.
- (3) A registration certificate shall not be sold, loaned, rented out, exchanged or deeded and shall be cancelled upon the sale or any other change in effective ownership of the approved premises or of the business carried on in the approved premises.

The Liquor Licensing Regulations specify how a liquor license can change ownership and how liquor licenses can also be relocated.

#### **Transfer of permanent license must be approved**

- 20 (1) Except as prohibited in subsection (2), a permanent licensee may transfer their permanent license only if the Executive Director approves the transfer in accordance with Section 21.

- (2) A club license is not transferrable.

**Executive Director must approve change to size, structure or location of licensed premises**

- 32 (1) A permanent licensee may change the size of their licensed premises or make a structural change to their licensed premises only if the permanent licensee submits a proposed replacement floor plan to the Executive Director and the Executive Director approves the replacement floor plan.
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (2A), a permanent licensee may change the location of their licensed premises only if the permanent licensee submits all of the information required by subsection 4(4) to the Executive Director for the new location and the Executive Director approves the new location.
- (2A) The Executive Director may waive some or all of the requirements of subsection 4(4), as the Executive Director considers appropriate, for a licensee seeking approval for a change of location.
- (3) The Executive Director may hold a public consultation before approving a change under this Section.
- (4) A permanent licensee may apply for an approval under this Section by submitting an application to the Executive Director.

Except in exceptional circumstances, a transfer of ownership and a relocation will not be permitted to occur concurrently. **A transfer of ownership and relocation to a premises that hosts an existing liquor license will not be approved.** A licensee seeking this transfer/relocation approval must write to the Executive Director explaining the necessity prior to submitting the appropriate applications.

**V. ACCOUNTABILITY**

The licensee is responsible for ensuring that they don't enter into any sales agreements which make reference to the movement of VLTs or that VLTs are involved in the sale (or that the sale is contingent on the retention of VLTs) or relocation.

**VI. REFERENCES**

- *Nova Scotia Liquor License Regulations*
- *Nova Scotia VLT Regulations*

**VII. INQUIRIES**

JP Landry  
Director, Licensing & Registration  
Alcohol, Gaming, Fuel & Tobacco  
PO Box 545  
780 Windmill Road  
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 3Y8

Phone: (902) 424-6022  
Fax: (902)424-6313  
Email: [JP.Landry@novascotia.ca](mailto:JP.Landry@novascotia.ca)  
Author: John MacDonald

23 DEC 2021

Date

  
John MacDonald, Executive Director