



Service Nova Scotia

Alcohol, Gaming, Fuel & Tobacco

Extensions of Hours for Permanent Liquor Licenses

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Approved By:	John MacDonald, Executive Director		

I. POLICY STATEMENT

The Alcohol and Gaming Division considers extensions of operating hours at permanent liquor licensed establishments for events that are of national, provincial, or municipal significance on a case-by-case basis.

II. POLICY OBJECTIVES

Municipalities and police agencies have raised concerns regarding the increased hours of operation of permanent liquor licensed establishments; this policy is intended to clarify the requirements and address the concerns of the police agencies and municipalities while maintaining fairness and consistency within the licensing community.

Section 54 of the Liquor Licensing Regulations allows for the Alcohol and Gaming Division to extend the hours of permanent liquor licenses beyond the hours that are set out in the Liquor Licensing Regulations. The standard hours of operation for liquor licensed establishments are set out in the regulations so these extensions are intended for rare events which are of significance to the community.

III. APPLICATION

This policy applies to all permanent liquor licensed establishments.

IV. POLICY

Requests for an extension of hours must be submitted in writing by mail, fax or email to the Alcohol and Gaming Division a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the date on which the extension of hours is to occur. Requests submitted after that time may not be considered.

A letter of support is required from the municipal police force where the liquor licensed establishment resides. It is the responsibility of the licensee to provide this letter to the Alcohol and Gaming Division along with their request. In instances where a municipal police force has given the Alcohol and Gaming Division a blanket approval for extended hours, a letter from the police will not be required for each event.

REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION OF HOURS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BUSINESS DAY

Requests for extension of hours at the beginning of the business day will be considered for 7:00 am or later. These requests will be considered without a letter of support from the police. The request must include details of the event, the local time of the event (i.e. Live TV Schedule in local time), and details of the national, provincial, or municipal significance of the event.

All approvals for extensions at the beginning of the business day will include the following conditions:

1. A Licensee may only serve liquor to a customer who has also been served enough food to constitute a meal.
2. Further, the licensee must not sell or serve more liquor to a customer than the amount that would reasonably be consumed with a meal. If a menu change is required or a licensee does not usually offer food service (Clubs/Cabarets) the intended menu must be submitted with the request.
3. All conditions and regulatory requirements of the permanent license apply to the extended hours unless otherwise amended/approved by AGD.

REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION OF HOURS FOR HOST VENUES

Requests for extension of hours for a venue which is considered a host venue for a significant event which is not open to the public will be considered without a letter of support from the police. The request must confirm that the premises will not be open to the public, and must include a letter from the organizing committee for the event. The letter from the organizing committee for the event must confirm that the licensed premises is the host venue for the event and that the premises will not be open to the public.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Due to a long-standing tradition of extending hours for New Year's Eve, a letter from the municipal police force is not required. The licensee must file a request in writing requesting this extension and the licensee must receive approval in writing before operating with extended hours.

SPRING DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Due to a long-standing tradition:

For spring daylight savings time transition all licensees will automatically have their hours extended by one hour (i.e. Lounges licensees for example may remain open until 3:00 a.m. using the revised clock time). No letter from the municipal police force is required. No request for extension is required.

For fall time transition, time will change in accordance with the end of daylight savings time at 2:00 am. Licensees are permitted to remain open in accordance with the Regulations. i.e. 2:00 am for Lounges, to the non-daylight savings time (which would have been 3 am under daylight savings time).

V. ACCOUNTABILITY

Licensees are responsible to ensure that they have approval in writing before operating with extended hours.

The Alcohol and Gaming Division will respond within 3 Days of the letter of request and letter of support (if required) being received.

The Alcohol & Gaming Division may withdraw or suspend approval if any regulatory concerns are brought forward.

VI. MONITORING

Licensees who experience control issues may not have future requests for extensions of hours approved. We reserve the ability to consider past history and may request security/contingency plans when an extension of hours is approved.

VII. REFERENCE

The authority for extension of hours is set out in section 54 of the Liquor Licensing Regulations.

VIII. INQUIRIES

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Date

1 October


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