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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.

This type of licence is a new feature of the NSW liquor laws that apply from 1 July 2008.

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 liquor 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 liquor 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 Casino, Liquor & Gaming Control 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 of Liquor and Gaming or the Casino, Liquor & Gaming Control Authority.

Applying for a general bar licence

Before applying for a general bar licence, the applicant must prepare a community impact statement (CIS). The applicant must lodge the CIS with the application for a general bar licence. A CIS helps the Authority to consider 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 in the Community impact Statement Toolkit for NSW Liquor Laws available at www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/liquor_CIS_home

The application fee for a general bar licence is \$500. The application form can be downloaded at www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/liquor_forms

The Authority will request the Director of Liquor and Gaming to report on the compliance history, if any, of those associated with the application.

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

Trading hours for a general bar licence

Liquor 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.

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



NSW Office of
Liquor, Gaming & Racing



Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation

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Important things to know

Trading	Monday– Saturday	Sunday	Good Friday	Christmas Day
Standard hours	5am– midnight	10am - 10pm	12 noon – 10pm	12 noon – 10pm (liquor can only be served with or ancillary to a meal in a dining area)
Extended hours (if allowed)	Midnight– 5am	All areas: 5:00am – 10:00am 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

Primary purpose test

All hotel licences, including those operating as a general bar, must have the primary purpose of selling liquor (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

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 liquor 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 liquor 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.

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



Signage is available from the Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing at www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/signs_order_form.asp

RSA training for staff

The licensee and all staff who serve liquor 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 liquor is served on the premises.

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 are 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 liquor 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 liquor at functions away from the premises?

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

Can I provide entertainment?

Yes, if you hold a place of public entertainment (POPE) approval from the local council.

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.

Access to the liquor laws – the *Liquor Act 2007* and the *Liquor Regulation 2008* – is available from www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/legislation_liquor_reform.asp

For more information, call us on 02 9995 0894 or email us at info@olgr.nsw.gov.au