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Since 1 July 2008, as a result of the new Liquor Act, the number of notices or signs that must be displayed inside licensed premises has been significantly reduced.

The changes will mean less signage 'clutter' and ensure that underage drinking messages are not diluted. Liquor accords are a prominent feature of the NSW liquor laws. They are an effective way for local licensees and other stakeholders to address alcohol-related problems in local communities.

Harm minimisation signs, previously imposed by the Licensing Court and the Liquor Administration Board on most licences and certificates of registration between 1997 and 2008, are no longer required. These signs, such as **No more. It's the law, know your standard drinks and proof of age**, will not be required. Licensees can continue to display these signs if they consider them of value in helping support responsible service and consumption of alcohol.

In most hotels and clubs, only two or three types of liquor signs must be displayed. For on-premises licences (eg restaurants, bottle shops, etc), only one or two types of liquor signs are required.

The new signs have been developed by OLGR, following research in 2006 by AC Nielsen which recommended the number of in-venue signs be reduced and that new signs be designed to ensure they were more visible, and consistent.

Overview of the new liquor signs

Sign 1 – Under 18s not to be served alcohol – all premises



This sign must be displayed wherever alcohol is sold on licensed premises i.e. at each bar and counter.

Where there is no bar or counter (eg a restaurant), the sign must be prominently displayed at each entrance of the premises.



NSW Office of
Liquor, Gaming & Racing



Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation

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Overview of the new liquor signs

Sign 2 – Bar areas of hotels and clubs



This sign must be displayed in each bar area of a hotel or club.

A bar area is defined as any area of a hotel or club where liquor is served, except those areas where a person under 18 are allowed by law to enter eg. dining area, authorised minors area in a hotel.

Sign 3 – Under 18 authorisation sign – hotels and public entertainment venues



This sign must be displayed in areas of a hotel where minors of the hotel that have been approved by the Casino Liquor Gaming & Control Authority as areas where people under 18 are permitted.

Important: Signs 1-3 must be purchased from the OLGR and cannot be reproduced or customised by venues. The new signs are produced in a UV resistant hard plastic and are aimed at ensuring the signs are durable and visible.

Sign 4 – Breath testing sign – premises with breath analysis machines



This sign must be clearly displayed next to a breath analysis machine, where one is installed.

Sign 5 – Alcohol not be sold to under 18s sign – all internet operators

A sign with the same wording as Sign 1, must be displayed wherever alcohol is sold via the Internet.

When can I start using the new signs and throw away the old ones?

You can purchase the new liquor signs now from the OLGR by ordering via Shop NSW - www.shop.nsw.gov.au/agencydetails.jsp?agency=59 or downloading an order form from our website www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/signs_order_form.asp

Licensees have until 30 June 2009 to get the new mandatory liquor signs in place, provided signage that complied with the old Liquor Act (1982) continues to be displayed.

What about gaming and club governance signs?

Existing signage requirements under registered club and gaming machine laws continue.