

Tanya Turner

From: LCRB Liquor Policy LCRB:EX <LCRBLiquorPolicy@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 12:16 PM
Subject: Policy Directive 20-26 and Policy Directive 20-27 – Extensions of Temporary Expanded Service Area (TESA) authorizations and LP FP off-site sales authorizations

Categories: Yellow Category

Hello,

I'm writing to announce Policy Directive 20-26 and Policy Directive 20-27.

To continue to support the hospitality industry in maintaining their operations while complying with the orders of the Provincial Health Officer related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province has made amendments to the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation to allow for the extension of existing Temporary Expanded Service Area (TESA) authorizations.

Originally, all existing TESA authorizations were set to expire on October 31, 2020. However, through [Policy Directive 20-26](#), the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) is announcing the intention to extend TESA authorizations until **October 31, 2021**.

The LCRB will be reaching out to local governments to confirm their support for the extension of approved TESA authorizations in their jurisdiction prior to extensions being granted. If concerns related to public safety and public interest are raised regarding TESA authorizations or the operation of particular TESAs, the LCRB will work with licensees and local governments to ensure TESAs operate in a manner that balances the interests of licensees, municipalities and the general public.

To limit the risk of disruptions for licensees, local governments **must confirm their support or objection for extension of TESA authorizations in their jurisdiction with the LCRB by October 16, 2020**. To do so, please email LCRBLiquorPolicy@gov.bc.ca. Providing confirmation as soon as possible will ensure licensees time to prepare for continuing or changing operational requirements for fall and winter.

If the local government is supportive, the LCRB will reissue authorization letters to existing TESAs automatically extending the expiry date of their authorizations before October 31, 2020. There will be no application or fee required for this extension.

Unless a new authorization letter has been issued, existing TESAs will expire on October 31, 2020.

Approved and extended TESA authorizations must remain in compliance with local bylaws and requirements. All other requirements relating to TESA authorizations remain the same.

If at any time local government bylaws or requirements change and prevent the operation of TESAs in a jurisdiction, we ask that local governments advise the LCRB by emailing the address below.

Licensees who have not yet submitted a TESA authorization application can do so by visiting the [online licensing application portal](#) up to October 31, 2021.

Local governments will continue to have two options for new approvals of TESA authorizations for liquor primary and manufacturer licensees:

- Pre-approval to cover all liquor primary and manufacturer establishments within their jurisdiction who may apply for an expanded service area; or

- Review/approval of all individual applications of all liquor primary and manufacturer expansions prior to licensees submitting their completed application package to the LCRB.

Note: Since food primary establishments are not generally required to obtain local government approval to expand their service areas, the LCRB will continue to process food primary requests for expanded service areas without requiring prior local government approval.

In addition to the above, [Policy Directive 20-27](#) replaces Policy Directive 20-19 and extends the temporary authorization for food primary and liquor primary licensees to sell and deliver packaged liquor to patrons with the purchase of a meal for off-site consumption until **March 31, 2021**.

This will continue to provide increased opportunities to generate revenue for the hospitality industry while helping vulnerable British Columbians continue to observe physical distancing guidelines.

As always, the LCRB is committed to continuing to support licensees through this challenging time. If you have any questions about this policy, please email LCRBLiquorPolicy@gov.bc.ca.

These authorizations will be reviewed as the provincial health context changes.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Maloughney
Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch