



April 30, 2020

To All Liquor Licensees, except Licensee Retail Stores, Special Wine Stores, and Wine Stores on shelf in grocery:

RE: Extension of licence expiry date for licences expiring between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province's March 2020 declaration of a state of emergency and the Provincial Health Officer's March 2020 declaration of a public health emergency, I am putting in place time-limited measures to support liquor licensees.

The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) recognizes that some in the liquor industry are facing significant financial challenges related to the COVID-19 provincial health emergency. We are aware that this is a trying time for many of you and as such the LCRB has been actively investigating regulatory tools to ease the financial burden of upcoming renewal fees.

The general manager has the authority, in extraordinary times, to extend the expiry date of liquor licences, and thus temporarily defer the associated licence renewal fees. Licensees whose licence expires between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020, and who find themselves in financial need, may request a licence extension to September 30, 2020 by contacting LCRB at: LCRB_COVID19@gov.bc.ca.

If your licence expired between March 31, 2020 and April 30, 2020 and has been renewed, but you find yourself in financial need, please contact the branch at: LCRB_COVID19@gov.bc.ca.

As noted, this measure is meant to support those facing significant financial difficulty so those licensees who can renew their licence (which includes paying the associated renewal fees) in accordance with their current expiry date are asked to please do so.

Important information and considerations related to temporary licence extensions:

- This is a timebound action that is applicable to all licensees, except Licensee Retail Stores, Special Wine Stores, and Wine Stores with wine on shelf in grocery stores
- This is a temporary extension of the expiry date of a licence. It is not a licence renewal. Licences which are extended will need to be renewed prior to the new expiry date – that is, prior to September 30, 2020.
- Subsequent renewal dates will be based on your original expiry date and not the extended date. This will result in this year's licence term being three to six months longer

**Liquor and Cannabis
Regulation Branch**

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(depending on your original expiry date) and next year's licence term being three to six months shorter.

- For example: A liquor primary licence expires on April 30, 2020. The licensee takes advantage of the extension and their current licence is extended by five months, with a new expiry date of September 30, 2020. Upon renewal, their next licence expiry date will be 7 months later on April 30, 2021.
- If you choose to have your licence extended, your renewal fees will be deferred until September 30, 2020.
- Renewal fees will continue to be calculated in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation (LCLR) and, if applicable, s.204 of the LCLR.
 - For example: Where the liquor primary licensee's expiry date is extended from April 30, 2020 to September 30, 2020, the September 30, 2020 renewal fee will be based on liquor purchases made between March 31, 2019 and March 31, 2020 in accordance with the formula set out in the LCLR as opposed to the calculation being based on liquor purchases made between October 31, 2018 and October 31, 2019, as the fee would have been calculated if the original expiry date of April 30, 2020 was maintained.
 - Continuing with the example: the April 30, 2021 renewal fee will be based on liquor purchases made between October 31, 2019 and October 31, 2020 in accordance with the formula set out in the LCLR. If the licensee opts for the licence extension to September 30, 2020, the liquor sold between October 31, 2019 and March 31, 2020 will be counted in the calculation of the renewal fee in both September 2020 and April 2021.
- If you choose to seek the extension of your licence expiry date, you are accepting the time period for the calculation of the licensing fees for this and the subsequent year.
- For those who choose to extend the expiry date of their licence, a new licence with the new expiry date (September 30, 2020) will be provided.

The LCRB is continuing to explore other measures to support the liquor industry during this difficult time and will communicate decisions with you as soon as we are able.

If you have any questions, please contact: LCRBLiquorPolicy@gov.bc.ca

Sincerely,

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