

Factsheet

Beverage Alcohol in Saskatchewan

Who regulates liquor distribution in Saskatchewan?

The distribution and sale of liquor in Saskatchewan is regulated by the Saskatchewan Liquor & Gaming Authority (SLGA), a Treasury Board Crown Corporation.

How much revenue is generated from liquor operations in Saskatchewan?

In 2010-11, \$215.0 million in net income was generated through liquor activities in stores, franchises, off-sale retailers and permitted establishments in Saskatchewan.

Where does this money go?

This money flows into the government's General Revenue Fund and helps fund government initiatives in support of social and economic objectives such as health, education and infrastructure.

How many liquor outlets are there in the province?

There are more than 700 liquor outlets in more than 400 communities across the province. SLGA operates 79 liquor stores in 64 communities across the province. In addition, SLGA has granted 190 small businesses in Saskatchewan a franchise to sell beverage alcohol on its behalf. There are also 447 permitted hotels and brew pubs in Saskatchewan that can sell beverage alcohol for off-site consumption.

Do all of these outlets sell the same products?

SLGA stores sell mainstream and specialty beer, wine and spirits; franchises sell specialty beer, as well as wine and spirits; off-sale outlets can sell beer, as well as wine and spirits. Chilled mainstream beer is only available at off-sale outlets. A limited number of SLGA stores sell chilled specialty beer.

Why do alcohol prices vary by outlet?

The retail price of products listed in SLGA liquor stores and franchises do not vary among outlet. Franchises that sell products not carried in SLGA liquor stores can set the price for those products as they choose. Off-sale retailers use an open pricing system and can adjust the prices for all of their products as they choose.

Why does SLGA establish minimum prices in bars and restaurants?

Minimum prices exist in permitted premises in order to promote responsible beverage alcohol consumption.

What if I can't find a particular product?

SLGA offers a special order service for customers looking for a specific product not available in provincial liquor stores. Phone (306)787-6558 or (306)787-6065 in Regina or toll free 1-877-298-5559 for more information.

(continued on reverse)

Do I need a permit to serve alcohol at locations other than a commercial liquor establishment?

Yes, special occasion permits are required for anyone serving alcohol at a special event, such as a wedding, cabaret or fundraiser that is held in a location other than a private place. A special occasion permit is also required at any event where beverage alcohol is being sold.

Are there different types of special occasion permits?

Yes. Sale Permits are for functions held to raise funds for charitable, educational, religious or community service purposes. A sale permit can also be used for social functions and community events open to the general public. Cost Recovery Permits authorize the sale of alcohol at a price sufficient to recover the cost of the alcohol. These permits are available only for private family celebrations and events, such as weddings or birthdays. Non-Sale Permits are for private functions where alcohol is served, but not sold. This permit is commonly used for staff parties, weddings, reunions and other family functions, open to invited guests only.

Where can I get a permit?

Most permits can be purchased at any SLGA liquor store or franchise. However, annual permits and all permits for outdoor events must be approved by SLGA's head office in Regina.

Can homemade wine and beer be served at weddings?

No. Only alcohol listed on the special occasion permit and purchased from a SLGA store or franchise can be served at private functions. Beer, wine and coolers may also be purchased from authorized off-sale outlets. This regulation exists in order to ensure quality control and prevent any public health issues that may arise from homemade products.

How can I get more information about special occasion permits?

For more information, inquire at any SLGA liquor store or franchise, or call head office in Regina (306)787-5563 or toll free 1-800-667-7565.