

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 2006-07, \$161.5 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 essential programs and services in areas of highways, healthcare and education.

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 80 liquor stores in 64 communities across the province. In addition, SLGA has granted 189 small businesses in rural Saskatchewan a franchise to sell beverage alcohol on its behalf. There are also approximately 475 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 domestic and premium beer, wine and spirits; franchises sell a limited selection of specialty beer, as well as wine and spirits; off-sale outlets can sell beer, as well as wine and spirits. Chilled domestic 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?

All beverage alcohol sold at SLGA liquor stores and franchises are subject to SLGA pricing. Off-sale retailers use an open pricing system and can adjust their prices 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.

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 public 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. Community Event Permits are for events intended for the entire community and may be more than one day, such as a homecoming, annual rodeo, annual fair or sports day. Sale Permits are for functions held to raise funds for charitable, education, religious or community service purposes. A sale permit can also be used for social functions open to members and invited guests of an organization. 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 you buy special occasion permits?

Most permits can be purchased at any SLGA liquor store or franchise. While applications for community event permits can be completed at any SLGA liquor store, the permit must be approved through SLGA's head office in Regina. It's important to apply for these permits well in advance of the function as it may take up to two weeks for processing.

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.