

Information for Barbers and Hairdressers on the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act.

Issue:

A number of barbershops had been visited by police in recent weeks and have been warned it is illegal to serve their customers alcohol because they do not hold a liquor licence for their business.

This police crackdown started in Dunedin and is based around barbers and hairdressers offering complimentary alcoholic beverages to their customers.

Why is this only an issue now?

It has always been illegal to serve alcohol in a commercial business setting without a licence, this includes barbershops and hairdressers. The practice of supplying alcohol at Barbers and Hairdressers has however become more common and this has put the sector on the radar.

Why can't I provide alcohol to customers? Either free of charge or included in the cost of the haircut?

The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act (SaSAA) restricts the sale and supply of alcohol to any person by another person or entity without holding a liquor licence.

Any premise or business that sells or supplies alcohol for consumption at the point of supply or sale must hold of an On-Licence, which means that business or premises can:

- (a) sell and supply alcohol for consumption there; and
- (b) let people consume alcohol

What if I just keep providing alcohol without a liquor licence?

We do not recommend you do this as you will be in breach of the law if you are caught. This can result in a fine of up to \$40,000 or 3 months in prison.

How do I get an On-Licence?

On-Licences are issued by your local territorial authority and can be obtained by most businesses. There will be a cost attached to this. This varies depending on the hours applied for. But generally, for a low risk venue the cost is \$320 for the application and \$140 annually (both ex GST).

One thing to also consider is the provision of food as the SaSAA states that the holder of an on-licence must ensure, at all times when the premises are open for the sale and supply of alcohol, a reasonable range of food is available.

What does being a Manager on Duty mean?

Any On-Licence must have at all times a Manager on Duty. Managers must have completed an Licence Controller Qualification(LCQ) course which is usually a 1-day course and then apply to the local territorial authority for the managers certificate. LCQ courses generally costs around \$200-\$300.

Being the Manager on Duty is quite a responsibility as ultimately, they are responsible for the serving of alcohol within your business and any issues that might arise from that service. Make sure you choose someone with authority to act if a situation arises. An LCQ course will clearly outline these responsibilities and any associated fines or jail terms that may apply if the person is found to be in breach of the SaSAA while undertaking Duty Manager duties.