



དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་ལཱ་བྱུང་། བརྟན་གྱི་རྩལ་ལྷན་ལཱ་བྱུང་།

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
THIMPHU



བརྟན་གྱི་རྩལ་ལྷན་ལཱ་བྱུང་།
MINISTER

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Notification

The Ministry of Economic Affairs informs the general public that the restaurants are now allowed to serve wine and liquor if they wish, without requiring a separate bar license. This puts an end to explicit promotion of bars and requirement of bar license that have led to proliferation of the outlet, endorsement of alcohol consumption and exploitation of license over the years.

All new applications shall be processed as restaurant license hereafter, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations for Operation of Restaurant and Retail Wine and Liquor Business 2022. The new rules and regulation also streamline the process of retail wine and liquor license issuance.

While the details are spelt out in the rules and regulations (www.moea.gov.bt), the Ministry notifies the general public of the following:

- i) One can apply license for a restaurant and retail wine and liquor through the online G2C system (www.citizenservices.gov.bt) directly from your devices, Community Centre or from the nearest Regional Office of Economic Affairs.
- ii) There shall not be a separate bar license, and existing bar license shall be termed as restaurant in the next renewal or earlier.
- iii) The restaurant shall not be attached to (combined with) a grocery, general shop or other trading activity. It must be equipped with adequate sitting arrangements ensuring hygiene, safety and comfort of customers.
- iv) All hotels can avail themselves of the Restaurant license to serve wine and liquor.
- v) In keeping with the norm, the restaurants, and retail wine and liquor are not allowed to serve or sell alcohol on Tuesdays, which is marked as the dry day. The retail outlets shall remain closed on Tuesdays, while restaurants are prohibited from selling alcohol on that day.
- vi) All hotels and places organizing meetings and official functions on Tuesday are informed to observe this restriction to avoid consequences.
- vii) The restaurants shall not serve alcohol before 1pm as is practiced currently.
- viii) The restaurants and retail wine and liquor outlets shall not serve or sell wine and liquor to individuals under 18 years.



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- ix) Retail license for wine and liquor shall be obtained separately. While it is allowed to combine with retails like grocery, mart or convenience stores, as is practiced now, a standalone outlet is also permitted.
- x) Micro Trade Registration Certificate (MTRC) outlets shall not retail wine and liquor.
- xi) Retail license holders of wine and liquor shall sell them as take away only.
- xii) Any restaurant or retails within the campus of schools, colleges, universities, TVET institutes, public offices and institutes, hospitals, Dzongs, and Dratshangs shall not sell wine and liquor products at all times
- xiii) The applicant shall sign an Undertaking as provided in the Rules and Regulations while submitting the application.
- xiv) All existing restaurants with Cottage Scale Registration Certificate wishing to sell or serve wine and liquor can apply via the G2C system (www.citizenservices.gov.bt) for restaurants within 30th December, 2022.
- xv) Any person who commits an offence under this Rules and Regulation shall be liable to pay a fine equivalent to daily minimum wage of six (06) months or previous year Business Income Tax, whichever is higher.
- xvi) If any person who was imposed fine for any offence committed under this Rules and Regulation commits the same offence again, the restaurant, wine and liquor license shall be cancelled for three (03) years.
- xvii) The applicants are informed to read the “Rules and Regulations for Operation of Restaurant and Retail wine and liquor Business 2022” before seeking the license.


Ministry of Economic Affairs

01/06/2022