



DRAFT AMENDMENT TO WESTERN CAPE LIQUOR REGULATIONS PUBLISHED FOR COMMENT

10 September 2021

The Western Cape Government has published a draft amendment to the Western Cape Liquor Regulations (2011 as amended) in the Provincial Gazette, stipulating proposed amendments to liquor licensing fees. A 30-day period for public comment in response thereto has now commenced.

Liquor licensing fees are revised annually ahead of the commencement of the Western Cape Liquor Authority's (WCLA) renewal period. Public comments on the draft amendment must be submitted by 10 October 2021 to the Department of Community Safety (full details below). Following a review of all comments and inputs received, the final amendment to the regulations will be gazetted.

The granting of a liquor licence goes beyond securing permission to trade in liquor. Alcohol is a regulated substance due to the widespread social, health and economic harms associated with it. Regulation ensures the consideration of public interest to reduce the negative impact of these harms on communities, while creating an enabling operating environment for businesses.

Licence renewal fees are utilised by the WCLA largely for enforcement activities to ensure compliance with licence conditions and reduce the incidence of under-age drinking, illegal sale of liquor and unsafe trading conditions. The proposed fee increase was determined, amongst other considerations, using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the current financial year to date (4.8%, as published by Statistics South Africa). This is comparable to the 2020/2021 increase of 4.1%.

Despite the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the WCLA achieved a 96.13% licence renewal rate for 2021, which was a slight improvement from the 95.85% average renewal rate of the previous 3 years. This indicates licence holders' commitment, as responsible corporate citizens, to reduce the harms associated with alcohol and create safer, more cohesive communities.

The public participation period is from Friday 10 September to Sunday 10 October 2021.

The Provincial Gazette with the draft amendment is available at https://www.wcla.gov.za/official_notices

All correspondence should be directed to Ms Lindè Govender at the Department of Community Safety.

For queries contact: Ms Lindè Govender at 021 483 5694

Post comments to: Ms Lindè Govender, Department of Community Safety, PO Box 5346, Cape Town, 8000

Email comments to: linde.govender@westerncape.gov.za (Mark the subject box clearly as: WCLA INCREASE IN LIQUOR LICENCE FEES)

Fax comments to: Fax no. 021 483 6412 / (Tel. no. 021 483 5694)

Deliver comments to: Ms Lindè Govender, Department of Community Safety, Reception at Ground Floor, 35 Wale Street, Cape Town, 8000

For queries related to the WCLA and licence renewals, please contact:

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