Pretorius & Associates
Liquor Law Specialists
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We attend to all types of applications for liquor licences under the Western Cape provincial legislation, which includes the Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA) for both on and off-site consumption purposes and Micro-manufacturing.

New, Temporary and Events liquor licences as well as the transfer and relocation of liquor licences. – contact for pricing.

Also, the National Liquor Authority (NLA), for both manufacturing and distribution registration licences and renewals (phone).

1. Can I apply?

If you meet the following criteria, you are able to apply for a liquor licence:
Provincial and National applications

1. The premises is correctly zoned.
2. The Applicant and/or its directors/members are not be disqualified in terms of Section 35 of the Liquor Act. (see Disqualification of Applicants)
3. The Applicant must have a right to occupy the premises.
4. The owner/landlord consents to liquor being sold from its premises.
5. The premises and location of the premises are suitable for the intended purpose.

Disqualification of Applicants

The following persons are disqualified from holding liquor licences:
- Anyone who has, within 5 years prior to the lodgement of the application, been sentenced to imprisonment without the option to pay a fine.
- Anyone who has, within 5 years prior to the lodgement of the application, been declared unfit to hold a registration by the National Liquor Authority or licence by any Provincial Liquor Authority.
- Anyone who is a minor upon the date of consideration of the application.
- Anyone who was the holder of a licence which was cancelled in terms of the provisions of the Liquor Act, or an Act regulating liquor licences in any province, within a period of 12 months prior to the lodgement of the application.
- Anyone who is the spouse or life partner of a person described in 1 - 4 above.
- Anyone, who is mentally ill as defined in the Mental Health Care Act, Act 17 of 2002

2. Do I need a liquor licence?

Any business/person who wants to trade (including marketing and selling) in liquor, must have a liquor licence. In other words, if an invoice is issued for liquor products and an income is generated as a result of the sale of liquor products, a liquor licence or National Registration must be applied for.

3. Renewal of licence

Provincial licences:

All provincial liquor licences must be renewed annually before 31 December. Licences can be renewed with penalties, calculated at 50 % per month until the end of February of the following year, after which condonation must be applied for at the Provincial liquor Authority with a further penalty determined amount. If the licence is not renewed and/or penalties are not paid in the event that it is paid after 31 December, the licence will lapse.

National registrations:

All national registrations must be renewed every 12 calendar months on the anniversary date of the registration certificate (Form NLA9). Should the licence not be renewed by such date, it can still be renewed by way of payment penalties of 25 % per months up until four months after the registration date, where after the NLA have the right to cancel the licence.

4. Event and Temporary Liquor Licences

A liquor licence is required for special events. When applying for this type of liquor licence, the applicant needs to be an organizer of the event. The event must be proved by way of advertising or promotional material for the full duration of the event. Whether the event entails on- or off-premises consumption, the application must include the required documentation and must be lodged at least 40 days before the event starts for the licence to be granted for the duration of the event.

A temporary licence can be applied for by using an existing valid liquor licence. One can use a specific licence for a maximum of 30 days per year for purposes of temporary licence applications. Holders of off- or on-consumption liquor licences can apply for temporary licences on condition that the nature of the temporary licence is in line with the type of licence used for purposes of the application, in other words, one can only use an on-consumption licence for on-consumption purposes and vice versa. Holders of micro-manufacturing liquor licences however cannot apply for temporary liquor licences. Temporary liquor licences are not granted for premises where there is a pending new licence application in terms of Section 36, nor in cases where there is a pending removal application in terms of Section 66(2).

What we do (liquor licence application services)

We handle liquor licence applications end-to-end, including:

- Selecting the correct licence category and operating conditions
- Pre-assessing premises compliance (zoning/land-use and practical risk)
- Preparing and compiling the application pack
- Lodging the application and managing notices where required
- Managing follow-ups and authority queries
- Handling objections and additional information requests

  Advising on renewals, amendments, and compliance maintenance.
- We confirm the right licence type, assess premises feasibility, compile the application pack, lodge it, and manage follow-ups and objections.

- **Professional fees (from):**
- Special Event R5,200; (excl. disbursements; complexity dependent eg: objections).
- On-/Off-consumption R15,000; (excl. disbursements; complexity dependent eg: objections).
- Micro-manufacture R15,000 (excl. disbursements; complexity dependent eg: objections).
- National Liquor Authority (NLA) Distribution and Manufacturing registration R17 000; (excl. disbursements; complexity dependent eg: objections).

Our legal fees as well as the WCLA and NLA lodgement fees are included in the above fees. No hidden costs.

We strive to expedite and streamline the liquor licence application process.
Our experience with registrations and long standing relationships with the industry role players give us the competitive advantage in registering licences. Your application will be handled by an experienced specialized team and your liquor licence registered efficiently.