

What constitutes a licensed premises?

Within the Colorado Liquor Code, "licensed premises" means the premises specified in an application for a license which are owned or in possession of the licensee within which such licensee is authorized to sell, dispense, or serve alcoholic beverages.

The licensee must submit a bold, outlined diagram of the licensed premises at the time of application. The diagram should be on an 8-1/2"x 11" piece of paper, it may be hand drawn using a ruler; it does not have to be to scale but should state the outside dimensions of the structure. Additionally, the various rooms should be labeled with details of storage and serving areas, such as coolers, the bar, entrances, exits and passages.

The licensed premises must be clearly indicated. If located in a shopping center or "strip center" provide only a diagram of the area to be licensed, not the entire shopping center. If an establishment has several floors, a diagram should be submitted for each floor if they are substantially different. **However**, if the floors are essentially the same, such as might be the case in a hotel, then one diagram of the main floor accompanied with an additional diagram of a typical guest floor, stating that there are "x" number of similar floors will be satisfactory.

For someone who has never made a diagram of a licensed premise, it may be helpful to think of the lines of delineation as solid walls. With this in mind, it should be noted that alcohol must be stored within the licensed premises and that a "Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License" must also have a fully operational kitchen within the premises. Keep in mind, that if an area is not part of the licensed premises, no alcohol can be allowed in that area. Hereto, a licensed premises' rooms and/or passages must connect and be contiguous.

The licensee must at all times have legal possession of the licensed premises through ownership, lease or other written arrangement which must only be in the name of the licensee. Additionally, a licensed premises must also qualify under other laws and regulations such as zoning, health and fire codes.

Once an establishment is granted a license, the licensee may not materially or substantially alter the licensed premises without prior written approval from both the local and state licensing authorities. To "alter" means: any increase or decrease in the capacity of the establishment; moving, adding or increasing the size of a bar; the sealing off, creation of, or relocation of doors or passages. In short, a licensee may not change or modify the premises in such a way that would affect the basic character.