



Ashburton District Licensing Agency

Newsletter to Licensees and Bar Managers

July 2009

This newsletter is intended to update and inform licensees and bar managers on licensing issues, and current concerns. Please circulate to all duty managers and liquor sellers and place on a staff notice board. You are free to copy and distribute as you wish.

1. CBD

- **Alcohol Accord:**

The launch of the Alcohol Accord in May is an important step in sending the message to the minority of licensed premises patrons that cause the majority of alcohol-related incidents in town, that their behaviour is unacceptable, and will result in consequences. Being trespassed from all premises in the CBD area is a “wake up call” and has had positive results in minimizing alcohol-related harm and damage in our community, in projects and initiatives elsewhere in the country.

We are very aware that a significant amount of harm/damage is not from patrons of licensed premises. Police advise that they will be proactive in enforcing the Liquor Ban. Licensees are also advised that it is critical that any “fake IDs” removed from patrons in licensed premises must be handed to Police within 3 days, with the details of the offender recorded on the forms/bag supplied.

The District Licensing Agency supports the Accord, and encourages all Accord participants to continue working together for the benefit of all. Licensees who have not joined the Accord are urged to reconsider.

- **Ambassadors:** The Ambassador scheme has received very positive response and has been budgeted to continue in the 2009/10 year
- A number of other issues raised, including street lighting, street cleaning, taxis, are being worked through. It is important that if you see any utility or service that “needs fixing” to please phone the relevant person.

2. Controlled Purchase Operation

A CPO in April resulted in sales at two Off Licence premises. Any sale is disappointing and all licensees should ensure that all staff and liquor sellers have received adequate training. If a sale is made during a CPO, action will be taken against the seller, duty manager and licensee.

REMEMBER- If a patron looks under 25, **NO ID=NO SALE.**

Training is available from agencies, and it’s free! Contact me for details.
A CPO in July resulted in no sales.

- #### 3. The Undie 500 event
- is scheduled for Friday 11 September 2009, not 21 August as previously advised. Advice received is that this is likely to be along the lines of last year’s event. There is a concert for participants in Dunedin on Saturday 12 September. It is strongly recommended to licensees that premises en route that are likely to be frequented, employ their normal Friday night bar staff from midday onwards on this day. If you do not have Friday night

security, please ensure staffing is adequate on this day. Contact Police as normal if you require assistance on the day.

- 4. Supermarkets:** A number of supermarkets and grocery store licensees throughout the country have appeared before the Liquor Licensing Authority in recent months. One point raised during some hearings is the role of the duty manager. As with ALL On and Off licensed premises, there must be a duty manager on the premises at all times that the premises is open for the sale of liquor, and he/she must be working in a position where he/she is able to effectively oversee liquor sales.

The Authority has also ruled that selling below cost constitutes “encouraging excessive consumption” and is illegal.

The range of products appearing in some supermarkets and grocery stores whose off licences are for the “sale of beer and wine” is also under scrutiny. These products must meet the legal definition of “beer” or “wine”.

5. Building/Fire Safety

- Applications for renewal of all on, off and club licences must be accompanied by the completed Fire Evacuation statement. If you have not kept up-to-date with this Fire Safety requirement, your application to renew your licence will not be accepted, and your licence may expire.
- The maximum occupancy of your premises is another safety feature. It is the responsibility of the licensee and bar manager to know how many persons are permitted on your premises, AND how many patrons there are at any time. This is particularly important during functions such as bands, concerts.

An overcrowded building is deemed a dangerous building. Instant fines may be issued for dangerous use, and/or Court action taken.

A register of maximum occupancies is being compiled by Council’s General Inspector in conjunction with the Ashburton Fire Safety Officer. It is intended that the maximum occupancy number(s) be displayed on the Building WOF.

Please contact Charlotte Spilman on 307-7752 at the Council Offices for any inquiries regarding this.

- 6. Law Changes:** There are a number of proposed law changes currently being considered. The size of off licence premises, alcohol impact reports, local alcohol plans, pricing, availability, and purchase are some of the key issues currently under the spotlight. The Law Commission is currently preparing a reviewing the Act and proposing a number of changes. This review document is now out; contact me if you want a copy. Alternatively I suggest you contact your HANZ rep if you wish to make a submission.

- 7. Contact:** Licensing forms are available on the Council’s website: www.ashburtondc@govt.nz.

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