



Licensing Act 2003

# Licensing law is changing

Don't put your  
business at risk

**ACT NOW!**

## Does the new law affect my business?

### If you or your business:

- Sell or supply alcohol
- Provide public entertainment, such as live music
- Sell hot food or hot drinks after 11 pm

### You must apply for a new licence or certificate, even if:

- you hold an existing licence
- your licence is not yet up for renewal
- you do not currently need a licence

**Applications should be submitted by 6 August 2005.**

### If you hold an existing licence:

You must apply to convert your licence by **6 August 2005**. This provides a fast-track application process.

At the same time you can apply to **vary your licence** by, for example:

- extending your hours
- adding public entertainment
- providing late-night refreshment

New licences give you the flexibility to run your business how and when you want.

**If you do not convert by 6 August 2005, you must apply for an entirely new licence to continue trading.**

### If you do not currently hold a licence but will need one:

You must secure your new licence by **24 November 2005**. This may affect businesses which, for example, serve hot food or drink after 11pm. The application process will take time – apply early to minimise delay.

## What if I do not apply?

All existing licences will expire on 24 November 2005.

**If you do not have a new licence by 24 November 2005, you risk closure or prosecution.**

## How do I apply?

Application forms must be submitted to your **local authority licensing team**.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from your local authority or the DCMS website

[www.culture.gov.uk/alcohol\\_and\\_entertainment](http://www.culture.gov.uk/alcohol_and_entertainment)

## Businesses affected by the new law include:

- Pubs and bars
- Nightclubs
- Members clubs
- Late-night restaurants or takeaways
- Hotels and guest houses
- Theatres
- Cinemas
- Off licences
- Supermarkets
- Convenience stores
- Village or community halls
- Concert halls and music venues
- Indoor sports venues and centres
- Pleasure boats and other vessels

**This list is not exhaustive. Anyone carrying out licensable activities will need the appropriate authorisation.** If you are unsure about whether you need a new licence, contact your local authority for advice.



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