

Statewide 3am lockout

A 3am lockout applies to all late-trading licensed premises across Queensland from midnight on Saturday 1 July 2006. The lockout implements the first stage of the *Statewide Safety Action Plan* and aims to safeguard patrons, the community and hospitality workers from liquor-related harm in and around licensed venues.

The lockout allows licensees with extended hours permits to continue trading until 5am, but will not allow the entry or re-entry of patrons after 3am. For example, if patrons go outside to smoke, move their car, or meet up with friends, they cannot be allowed back inside the venue. Only licensed premise employees, Liquor Licensing investigators, police and emergency personnel who are performing their official duties can enter or re-enter licensed premises after 3am.

The lockout was set at 3am as the 3am to 5am trading is considered a high-risk period. For this reason, licensed premises that trade between 3am and 5am must reapply for this condition annually.

BYO restaurants, casinos, airport terminals and residential accommodation are exempt from the 3am lockout as are licensees in the Gold Coast City Council area during the annual Indy Carnival.

The effectiveness of the statewide lockout will be reviewed in July 2007.

Does the statewide 3am lockout affect existing lockout restrictions?

The Chief Executive of the Liquor Licensing Division can still impose earlier lockouts through licence conditions, particularly for premises that do not trade past 3am. However, all existing lockout arrangements prior to 3am will continue as they currently stand. For example, the existing 1:30am lockouts on the Sunshine Coast will still apply.

Penalties

Failure to comply with the statewide 3am lockout could result in penalties of up to \$7,500 for licensees or permittees.

It is anticipated that further reforms under the *Statewide Safety Action Plan* will implement stricter licence conditions that require all licensees with permission to trade after 1am to:

- comply with a prescribed minimum ratio of crowd controllers to patrons;
- install, monitor and maintain closed circuit television cameras on all public entrances and exits;
- ensure all their staff have completed *Responsible Service of Alcohol* training; and
- develop and maintain a responsible house policy.

Additional requirements relating to drink promotions will apply to all licensees, regardless of trading hours, and include:

- limitations on the frequency and duration of happy hours; and
- prohibition of drinking competitions at licensed premises.

For further information, please contact the Liquor Licensing Division on 1300 654 919 or visit www.liquor.qld.gov.au.

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The laws referred to in this guide are complex and various qualifications may apply in different circumstances. You are encouraged to obtain independent legal or financial advice if you are unsure of how these laws apply to your situation.

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