



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Liquor Manufacturing, Sales & Related Activities in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)

If you are applying for a liquor licence or a winery endorsement in the ALR, you must ensure you meet all requirements regarding land use in the ALR. This information bulletin explains the key requirements.

The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) which is a provincial land use zone where agriculture is the priority use. The ALC's purpose as set out in the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* is to preserve agricultural land and encourage and enable farming. A person must not use ALR land for a non-farm use unless permitted by the Act, the regulation or an order of the Commission.

Wineries and Cideries

Wineries and cideries licensed by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) are permitted in the ALR subject to specified criteria.

If you do not meet the criteria, you will need to submit an application for non-farm use to the ALC to request permission prior to establishing your winery or cidery. Information about the application process and application forms are available on the ALC website http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alr/Application_Landowner.htm

ALC regulation permits wineries and cideries if they meet the following criteria:

- At least 50% of the farm product (fruit) used to make the wine is produced on the farm on which the winery is located,

OR alternatively,

- the winery is located on a farm that is at least 2 hectares in size, and produces the fruit used to make the wine, and at least 50% of the fruit used to make the wine comes from a BC farm under a 3 year contract to provide fruit to the winery.

The farm on which the winery is located may be comprised of one or several parcels of land owned or operated by a farmer as a farm business.

For more information please refer to ALC regulation interpretation policies:

Wineries and Cideries http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/legislation/policies/Pol3-03_Wineries.htm

Retail Sales http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/legislation/policies/Pol2-03_FarmRetailSales.htm

Product Processing http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/legislation/policies/Pol1-03_FarmProdProc.htm

Agri-Tourism http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/legislation/policies/Pol4-03_agri-tourism.htm

Winery Endorsements and Stores

The following LCLB endorsements and stores are permitted in the ALR provided they are ancillary to the winery or cidery:

- Retail sales through an onsite store appointment
- Tour area endorsement
- Picnic area endorsement
- Special event area endorsement
- A lounge endorsement is only permitted if it meets the following ALC criteria*:
 - The interior lounge area does not exceed 125 square meters and the patio area does not exceed 125 square metres; or an approval of the Commission via application to exceed the areas.
 - Serves alcohol products produced on the premises in addition to food

*If you wish to proceed with a winery lounge, please contact the ALC to confirm that your plans meet the criteria prior to applying to LCLB.



Distilleries, Breweries, and Meaderies:

The regulation does not permit breweries, distilleries or meaderies in the ALR, except in those cases where the ALC considers the manufacturing to be processing of a farm product. Otherwise, an application must be submitted to the ALC to request permission to locate in the ALR. Permission is also required to operate an on-site retail store. Please contact the ALC to discuss your proposal and seek advice regarding the process.

Food Primary and Liquor Primary Licences

If you are considering opening a restaurant, bar or pub in the ALR, they are prohibited uses and require an application for non-farm use and approval from the ALC in advance of applying for a food-primary or liquor primary licence from LCLB. Please contact the ALC to discuss your proposal and seek advice regarding the process prior to submitting an application to LCLB for a food primary or liquor primary licence.

For More Information

For more information on the Act, regulations and policies that govern ALR use, see the ALC website at www.alc.gov.bc.ca or call the ALC office at 604 660-7000.