

Your Legal Questions

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Q. I am buying a restaurant and want my customers to be able to enjoy alcoholic drinks with their meals. What do I need to do?

A. If you are not intending to sell or supply alcohol yourself but for your customers to bring their own then you do not need a licence.

Where you want to sell alcohol you will need a Premises Licence. If one already exists for the restaurant it needs to be transferred and your solicitor will need to include appropriate terms in the purchase contract to cover this.

Besides transferring the Premises Licence you will also need to change the Designated Premises Supervisor. The supervisor is the person ultimately responsible for everything that happens on the premises. There can only be one such supervisor for each premises and he or she must be named on the Premises Licence. It is often the owner but can be a manager employed by the owner.

It is a requirement that this supervisor holds a Personal Licence and if at any time they lose their Personal Licence no alcohol can be sold or supplied.

Applicants for a Personal Licence must hold a National Certificate for Personal Licence Holders and supply a Criminal Records Bureau Certificate or equivalent.

Applications relating to Premises and Personal Licences are lodged with the local licensing authority and served, as appropriate, on interested parties e.g. Police, Fire Authority, Planning Department.

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