



Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation

Liquor licensing fact sheet

Training for liquor licence applicants

Training for licence applicants helps potential licensees to understand their obligations under the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*. Applicants must complete mandatory training requirements before a liquor licence is granted. There are three courses that applicants must complete depending on the licence type they are applying for. These are:

- A. New entrant training
- B. Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA)
- C. Advanced Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA)

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the correct course is completed and to provide evidence of completion with their application.

A. New entrant training

What is new entrant training?

New entrant training is a training standard developed by the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) to ensure that liquor licence applicants have an adequate knowledge of the liquor law. This includes:

- liquor licensing legislation
- understanding liquor licence obligations
- best practice in managing licensed premises.

Section 44 (2)(iii) of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* (the Act) provides that the VCGLR may refuse to grant a liquor licence application if the applicant does not have an adequate understanding of the Act.

What must I do?

Applicants are required to complete one of the following approved training courses to meet the new entrant training requirement:

- Licensees' First Step
- Achieve Liquor Licence Compliance
- Victorian Licensee's Training Course
- Achieve Liquor Licensing Knowledge (also available in Mandarin)
- New Entrant Liquor Licensee Training Course
- Club Seminar (restricted club or renewable limited club licence applicants only)

Where can I find a Registered Training Organisation?

There are a number of Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) that provide new entrant training. Please refer to the VCGLR website at vcglr.vic.gov.au for a list of RTOs that provide new entrant training.

Which licence applications require evidence of new entrant training?

Applications for the following licences require evidence that the applicant has completed New entrant training:

- general
- on-premises
- packaged liquor
- late night (general, on-premises and packaged liquor)
- restaurant and cafe
- full club
- restricted club
- producer's
- renewable limited
- transfer of an existing licence or permit.

Who must complete new entrant training?

The list below identifies who will need to complete new entrant training. If applying as:

- individuals – all natural persons
- partnerships – all partners
- company (body corporate) – at least one director
- club – at least one committee member
- association – at least one committee member.

In addition:

- all persons being appointed as a liquor licence nominee must complete new entrant training.
- all applicants seeking approval to sublet any part of the licensed premises, or to carry on the business of supplying liquor on the licensed premises, must complete new entrant training.

B. Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA)

What is Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training?

RSA training provides licensees and staff who work in licensed venues with the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to a safe and enjoyable environment in licensed premises.

Which licence applications require evidence of RSA training?

Applications for the following licences require evidence that the applicant has completed RSA training:

- general
- on-premises
- packaged liquor
- late night (general, on-premises and packaged liquor)
- restaurant and cafe
- full club
- restricted club
- producer's
- renewable limited (only where face-to-face sales occur)
- transfer of an existing licence or permit.

Who must complete RSA training?

The list below identifies who will need to complete RSA training. If applying as:

- individuals – all natural persons
- partnerships – all partners
- body corporate applicants (companies, incorporated associations, co-operatives or municipal councils)
- the person who is or will be in management and control of the licensed premises and who will run the day-to-day operations of the business.

Note: Body corporate applicants must advise the VCGLR of the name of the person who manages or will manage the day-to-day operations of the business on the application form.

Where can I find a Registered Training Organisation (RTO)?

There are a number of registered training organisations that provide RSA training. Please refer to the VCGLR website at vcglr.vic.gov.au for a list of RTOs that provide RSA training.

I've previously completed an RSA course, is it still valid?

The approved RSA training course must have been completed within the past three years.

If you completed your RSA training course more than three years ago, you can complete a free RSA refresher course online at vcglr.vic.gov.au.

Can I be exempted from RSA training?

In exceptional circumstances, a liquor licence applicant may seek an exemption from one or all of the RSA training obligations.

General, on-premises, packaged liquor or late night (general, on-premises and packaged) licence applicants must complete the 'Application for the exemption from the Responsible Service of Alcohol training requirements' form available at vcglr.vic.gov.au.

All other liquor licence applicants are required to write a letter to the VCGLR detailing the reasons for seeking an exemption before the licence is granted.

C. Advanced Responsible Service of Alcohol

What is the Advanced Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training?

The Advanced RSA training program was developed by William Angliss Institute in conjunction with the VCGLR. It is designed for licensees, managers and staff of late night venues who often face a range of challenges and issues.

For further information about the course and how to book, please visit the William Angliss Institute website at shortcourses.angliss.edu.au

Which licence applications require evidence of Advanced RSA training?

Applicants for a new late night (general) licence or late night (on-premises) licence that authorises the supply of liquor after 1am for on-premises consumption must complete the Advanced RSA training program.

This requirement does not apply in relation to late night (on-premises) licences with restaurant and cafe conditions.

When must Advanced RSA training be completed?

For new applicants, the Advanced RSA training program must be completed within six months of the licence being granted. This is in addition to RSA training and new entrant training which must be completed prior to the licence being granted.

For licensees that receive a demerit point, the Advanced RSA training program must be completed within six months of the demerit point being recorded in the demerits register.

Who must complete the training program?

The Advanced RSA training program must be completed by the holder of the licence and by the responsible person for the premises.

1. The holder of the licence means, in relation to a licence held by:

- a natural person, that person
- a partnership, one partner
- a body corporate incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001*, one director, and
- an association incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, one committee member.

2. Responsible person is defined by section 3 of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* as the person responsible for the management or control of licensed premises.

Where the holder of the licence is effectively the responsible person, only the holder of the licence is required to complete the training program.

Evidence of approved new entrant and approved RSA training courses must be provided to the VCGLR prior to a liquor licence being granted, transferred or endorsed. You will be required to provide this evidence with submission of your application.

For further information about new entrant, RSA and Advanced RSA training requirements, please visit the VCGLR website at vcglr.vic.gov.au.

This publication avoids the use of legal language. Information about the law may have been summarised or expressed in general statements. This information should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional legal advice or reference to the actual legislation. Authorised by the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation.