



HOSPITALITY | Issue No. 14 | *New laws banning rapid intoxication drinks after midnight*

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We have previously mentioned that there are a large number of licensing reforms coming into effect on 1 July 2016. The latest change to affect licensees was tabled in Queensland Parliament on 14 June – prescribing certain beverages as “rapid intoxication drinks” and banning their sale between midnight and 5.00am.

But what is a rapid intoxication drink?

Good question. In summary, this is what the [Liquor \(Rapid Intoxication Drinks\) Amendment Regulation \(No. 1\) 2016 \(Qld\)](#) says:

- Drinks in small glasses or containers that allow patrons to consume the drink quickly eg. shots, shooters, jelly shots, bombs etc.
- A prepared drink that contains in excess of 45ml of spirits or liqueur.
- A pre-mixed beverage that contains more than 5% alcohol by volume or more than two standard drinks.

Cocktails often contain more alcohol than the 45ml limit, but rather than treating these drinks in the same manner as shots or shooters, the legislation considers cocktails as drinks to be savoured rather than to be consumed quickly.

The new Regulation allows an exemption for cocktails from the service ban if the cocktail:

- is listed in a menu prepared by the licensee with its price displayed;
- is not sold at a discounted price between midnight and 5.00am; and
- is not served in a shot form for rapid consumption.

All beer, wine and champagne can continue to be served as normal and spirits can also still be served with up to 45ml of liquor (one and a half nips) per drink, to allow mixed spirits (eg. gin and tonic, rum and cola) or high end spirits (single malt whisky) to be sold, as long as they are

not served in a shot glass or similar container designed to allow rapid consumption.

These changes will be upon us very soon and licensees need to ensure that bar staff and venue managers are aware of their responsibilities. The penalty for selling rapid intoxication drinks after midnight is a fine of 100 penalty units (\$12,190).



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