



## QUICK GUIDE | RESTAURANTS

Restaurants licenses are issued to on-premise retailers that are regularly ready, willing, and able to serve food and focus on food service as one of the main drivers of their business. Restaurants licenses generally cost less than other types of alcohol licenses.

### MINIMUM FOOD SALE REQUIREMENTS

A class C/R licensee is required to have one of the following:

- Gross annual food sales of at least \$2,000 per occupant, which is determined by the establishment's Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board-approved certificate of occupancy; or
- Food sales must account for at least 45 percent of the establishment's gross annual receipts.

A class D/R licensee is required to have one of the following:

- Gross annual food sales of \$1,500 per occupant, which is determined by the establishment's ABC Board-approved certificate of occupancy; or
- Food sales must account for at least 45 percent of the establishment's gross annual receipts.

### MANDATORY QUARTERLY REPORTS

A restaurant must [file quarterly statements](#) on the dates assigned by the ABC Board for the preceding quarter and must include the following items:

- Gross receipts for the sale of alcoholic beverages;
- Gross receipts for the sale of food;
- Gross receipts for the establishment;
- Expenses for the purchase of alcoholic beverages;
- Expenses for the purchase of food; and
- Total expenses for the purchases of food and alcoholic beverages.

Quarterly statements are made available to the public for the purpose of allowing a protestant of a license to determine the gross annual receipts of a licensee.

### MAINTAINING AN OPEN KITCHEN

Restaurants must have its kitchen open and operating until at least 2 hours before closing.

## **PERMITTING WINE TO-GO**

Restaurants may permit a patron to leave the premises with one partially consumed bottle of wine for consumption off premises. This is permitted where the restaurant's staff securely reseals the bottle, places it in a bag or other containers, and attaches a dated receipt to the bag or container before the patron leaves. This privilege does not apply to beer or spirits.

## **RESTAURANTS IN GROCERY STORES**

A licensee operating under an off-premise retail license (A/B) that qualifies as a full service grocery store may also obtain a Restaurant License.

## **FOOD COURTS, FOOD HALLS, AND OTHER COMMON DINING AREAS**

A Restaurant license holder may operate in a pavilion, shopping mall, shopping center with a common dining area under an on-premise retailer's Class D license. Alcohol sold for consumption in these areas shall be in containers that clearly identify the seller.

## **QUALIFYING AS A HOTEL**

A restaurant operating inside a hotel may obtain a Hotel license (C/H or D/H), instead of a Restaurant license, and operate with the same privileges as a hotel, if it has a written agreement with the hotel authorizing it sell and serve alcohol in its dining room, lounges, banquet halls, in the private rooms of registered guests, and similar facilities. See the [Quick Guide on Bed and Breakfast and Hotel Licenses](#) for information on the privileges and other relevant information associated with this license

## **CONTACT ABRA**

For more information, visit [abra.dc.gov](http://abra.dc.gov), call (202) 442-4423, or email [abra@dc.gov](mailto:abra@dc.gov).