



## Types Liquor Licenses Brokers Explained: Which One Do You Need for Your Business



For businesses aiming to sell alcoholic beverages in California, it's crucial to understand the various [Types Liquor Licenses](#) available. Whether you're starting a new venture or managing an existing establishment, securing the appropriate license is vital for compliant operations. License Brokers specializes in streamlining this complex process, offering step-by-step guidance to help clients obtain the licenses that best suit their specific needs.

Obtaining a liquor license in California can be a challenging and expensive process. The state restricts the number of licenses per county, creating strong competition among applicants. The level of demand varies based on the type of license needed. California's liquor licensing system is divided into five primary categories, each serving different business needs. Understanding these classifications is essential for securing the right license for your establishment.

**Temporary Non-Profit Licenses:** Issued for short-term events hosted by non-profit organizations.

**Temporary Licenses:** Allow businesses to operate while awaiting approval for a permanent license.

**On-Sale Licenses:** Authorize alcohol sales for on-site consumption, ideal for restaurants and bars.

**Off-Sale Licenses:** Permit alcohol sales for off-site consumption, suited for liquor stores and retailers.

**Non-Retail Licenses:** Designed for manufacturers, distributors, and wholesalers in the alcohol industry.

In California, Types Liquor Licenses are classified based on where alcohol is consumed. On-sale licenses allow alcohol to be served and consumed on-site, making them ideal for bars and restaurants. Off-sale licenses permit the sale of sealed alcoholic beverages for off-site consumption, commonly used by grocery and liquor stores. License costs vary widely, with beer and wine licenses generally being more affordable than those that include distilled spirits.

**Type 20 License:** This off-sale beer and wine license allows retailers, such as grocery and convenience stores, to sell packaged beer and wine for off-premises consumption. However, it does not permit the sale of open containers or on-site consumption. Additionally, businesses holding this license can allow minors on the premises without restrictions.

**Type 21 License:** This off-sale general license allows retailers to sell packaged beer, wine, and distilled spirits for off-premises consumption. It is ideal for liquor stores, grocery stores, and convenience stores looking to offer a full range of alcoholic beverages. Unlike the Type 20 license, which is limited to beer and wine, the Type 21 license includes distilled spirits. However, it does not permit on-site consumption or the sale of open containers, and there are no restrictions on minors being present in the store.

**Type 47 License:** Is an on-sale general license that allows restaurants to serve beer, wine, and distilled spirits for on-premises consumption. To qualify, the establishment must serve food and maintain a suitable kitchen, with at least 51% of sales coming from food. This license is more comprehensive and often more expensive than those for beer and wine alone, as it applies to full-service dining rather than bars or nightclubs.

**Type 48 License:** is for bars and nightclubs that serve alcohol to patrons aged 21 and older. Unlike the Type 47, it does not require food service and has strict regulations around entry—minors are not allowed. The application process is thorough, involving zoning laws and city regulations. The cost varies by location, with an application fee of \$15,835 and annual fees

ranging from \$790 to \$1,235 as of October 2024.

If you're looking to navigate the complexities of obtaining or selling a liquor license in California, License Brokers can help. Our experienced team works with businesses of all sizes, from small family-owned shops to larger enterprises, ensuring efficient license acquisition. We handle the intricate details of California's ABC regulations, providing you with a seamless and timely licensing process. Let us manage the paperwork so you can focus on your business goals.

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