



STAP

NEDERLANDS
INSTITUUT
VOOR ALCOHOLBELEID



Dutch Alcohol Licensing and Catering Act

A strict set of national and local rules to control a popular non-ordinary product for health reasons

Wim van Dalen; 14th Januari 2015 Ljubljana

Some alcohol problems in the Netherlands

- 5 million inhabitants are drinking above the guidelines of low-risk drinking (max. 1 per day for women, 2 per day for man)
- High binge drink level of 16+ drinkers (72%)
- Night live violence costs between 0.8 and 1.3 billion € per year
- In 2003: 2000 alcohol intoxicated persons in hospitals (ED)
In 2013: 5000

Alcohol Licensing and Catering Act

- **FOCUS ON HEALTH:** Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport is responsible for safe selling and serving
- Municipality is responsible for prevention, licensing and enforcement (65.000 alcohol selling points in the Netherlands)



Alcohol Licensing and Catering Act

- Other alcohol-related issues are regulated in other national laws:
 - Taxation
 - Driving while intoxicated
 - Time ban advertising on television and radio (6 am-9pm)
 - Public drunkenness and overserving

Alcohol Licensing and Catering Act: prevent easy availability of alcohol towards young people

- No selling below 18
- Obligated proof of age
- No possession of alcohol below 18 on public places (street, in bars etc)



Alcohol Licensing and Catering Act: prevent availability to young people

- No selling below 18: € 1300,-
- Obligated proof of age: € 1300
- No possession below 18 on public places (street, in bars etc): € 45-90



Some countries have an obliged reference age

CHALLENGE

21

IF YOU ARE
LUCKY ENOUGH
TO LOOK UNDER 21
YOU WILL BE ASKED TO
PROVE YOU ARE
OVER 18
WHEN YOU BUY ALCOHOL

IF YOU ARE
UNDER 18, IT IS AN
OFFENCE TO BUY
OR ATTEMPT
TO BUY ALCOHOL

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID:

- CARDS BEARING THE PASS HOLOGRAM
- PHOTOCARD DRIVING LICENCE
- PASSPORT
- MILITARY ID

www.pass-scheme.org.uk
drinkaware.co.uk for the facts

BRITISH BEER & PUB ASSOCIATION

Alcohol Licensing and Catering Act

- In case of a violation of the law
License can easily be suspended for a period



Other selling rules:

- Beer, wine and mixed drinks: only in grocery stores
- No spirits in supermarkets
- No alcohol in petrol stations

- Liquor shops: only alcohol and alcohol related products



Two categories of alcoholic beverages

- **Mildly** alcoholic beverages
 - beer > 0.5% alcohol
 - wine > 0.5% alcohol
 - Mix drinks < 15%



- **Strong** alcoholic beverages
 - distilled spirits \geq 15% alcohol, but < 82% alcohol



Selling and serving of alcoholic beverages

- **Off premise (shop)**
 - mildly alcoholic beverages only in grocery stores and licensed liquor shops
 - strong alcoholic beverages only in licensed liquor shops
- **On premise (pub etc)**
 - in licensed pubs and restaurants
 - during short events (only mildly alcoholic beverages)

National licensing terms

- The licence-holder, bartenders and responsible liquor shop personnel:
 - ≥ 21 years
 - no serious crimes last 5 years
 - mandatory responsible serving course
- The licensed outlet
 - liquor shop and pub/restaurant not in same room
 - No open passage between liquor shop and other store

Additional power for the mayor

He/she can:

- Permit serving wine and beer during events (max. 12 days)



Additional power for the mayor

He/she can:

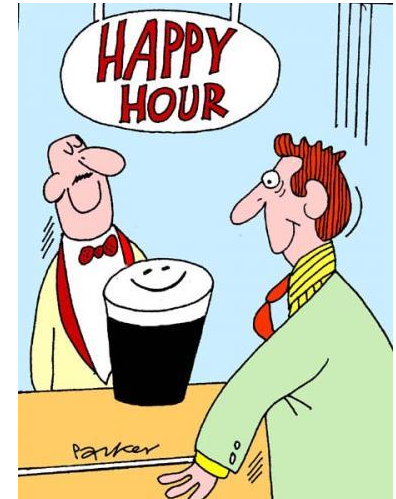
- Regulate closing/ serving hours (sport canteens!)



Additional power for the mayor

He/she can:

- Ban extreme price promotions in supermarkets and bars



Additional power for the mayor

He/she can:

- Ban alcohol possession on the street



Additional power for the mayor

- But.....
- Each municipality is legally obliged to have a written prevention and enforcement policy and it has to be renewed every 4 years

Enforcement

- Mayor is responsible for enforcement of the Alcohol Licensing and Catering Act at the local level.
- Specially qualified local supervisors are appointed by the mayor
- Police officers have general law enforcement powers and have to enforce overserving

Local alcohol inspectors

- Appointed by the mayor
- A special examen is obliged
- There are 400 municipalities with around 530 inspectors
- The inspectors have their own national association

Problems

- Alcohol selling via internet: almost impossible to control
- Compliance level of the 18 law is still too low:
 - * 50% in supermarkets
 - * 25% in pubs
 - * 15% sport canteens
- Education level of local inspectors
- Technical problems of enforcement
- 'Careful' enforcement policy of mayors (many warnings, less fines)
- Low over serving compliance rate (15-30%)

We advise:

- Make the use of mystery shoppers/ test purchasers possible not only for research reasons but also as a part of the enforcement procedure (like in the UK)
- Introduce proven age-compliance techniques especially in supermarkets
- For bars: check always the ID at the door

Thanks for your attention

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