



The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) oversees the administration of Special Occasion Permits, which allow for the sale and service of alcohol at special events.

When do you need a Public Event Special Occasion Permit?

Public Event SOPs can be issued to: charitable organizations registered under the *Income Tax Act*; non-profit associations organized to promote charitable, educational, religious or community objects; and for events of municipal, provincial, national or international significance or tailgate events (see Tailgate Event Permit Guide for more information).

Events may be advertised and fundraising/profitting from the sale of alcohol at the event is permitted.

Apply for your Special Occasion Permit Online

In order to apply for a SOP, you will first need to create an online iAGCO account. The iAGCO portal can be accessed at www.agco.ca/iagco.

Once your account has been created, you can click the “Apply for a Special Occasion Permit” link. The link will bring you to a page where you can start your application by selecting “SOP – Public Event” in the drop-down menu under “Type”. You will be able to save your application in draft form before submitting it and add to it as needed throughout the application process.

Through your iAGCO account, you will be able to check the status of your application and, once approved, you will be able to print your permit immediately yourself.

Payments for your permit can be made using Visa, MasterCard or *Interac* Online. Cheques and cash cannot be used for payment.

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Contact Information

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Ce document est aussi disponible en français



Apply for your Special Occasion Permit online through the iAGCO portal at www.agco.ca

AGCO

Alcohol and Gaming
Commission of Ontario

CAJO

Commission des alcools
et des jeux de l'Ontario



Special Occasion Permits
Public Events

AGCO

Alcohol and Gaming
Commission of Ontario



PUBLIC

What you need to know when applying for a Public Event Special Occasion Permit

You must be 19 years of age or older to apply for a SOP.

The application must be submitted at least **30 days prior to the event.**

Applicants must provide all information, materials, documentation or approvals as may be requested. Additional documentation may be requested of you from the AGCO after your application has been submitted.

If any specific risks are identified during the application review process, the Registrar has the authority to attach conditions to a SOP to mitigate any risks that may be related to an event. Conditions might include limiting the hours of sale and service of alcohol.

Outdoor Events

The local municipal clerk’s department, police, fire and health departments must be given a written notice **30 days** before the event when expecting **fewer than 5,000 people** per day. If expecting **5,000 people or more** per day, a notice to the same group is required **60 days** prior to the event. If there is a tent, marquee, pavilion or tiered seating being used, then the local building department must be notified in writing.

Permit Types

You may apply for a “Sale” or “No Sale” permit.



At a “No Sale” event, you cannot charge your guests for alcoholic drinks either directly or indirectly (through an admission fee or drink ticket sales, for example). All costs related to alcohol must be absorbed by the permit holder.

A “Sale Permit” can be issued for up to three consecutive days. At a “Sale” event, you may sell alcohol to guests.

Purchasing Alcohol

Whether you have a “No Sale” or “Sale Permit”, all alcohol must be purchased in Ontario through a government store or a store authorized under clause 3(1)(e) of the *Liquor Control Act*. These include any LCBO store, LCBO Agency store, The Beer Store, or any authorized manufacturer’s retail store. Receipts for all alcohol purchased under the permit must be available for inspection upon request.

Charitable organizations registered under the *Income Tax Act* and not-for-profit organizations/associations may accept alcohol donated by manufacturers of alcohol. Donated alcohol must be processed by a government store (LCBO store, LCBO Agency store, The Beer Store or authorized manufacturer’s retail store) under the permit.

At the Event

The Permit Holder/Responsible Person must be present throughout the SOP event and is responsible for the safety and sobriety of people attending the event.

If an emergency arises and you cannot attend, you must designate someone in writing to attend in your absence.

You must ensure that the location of the event is in compliance with all health, fire and building regulations and that the maximum capacity of the location is not exceeded.

The permit location/area where alcohol will be sold/served/consumed must be readily distinguishable from areas where the permit does not apply.

Hours during which alcohol is sold must be between 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. on any day except New Year’s Eve (December 31) where hours may be between 9 a.m. and 3 a.m. the following day (January 1).

Advertising

A Public Event permit holder may advertise or promote the availability of alcohol only in accordance with the *Registrar’s Advertising Guidelines - Ferment on Premise and Liquor Delivery Service Holders and Special Occasion Permit Holders*, available on the AGCO’s website at www.agco.ca.

Your Responsibility

As a permit holder, you must ensure the event is run properly and in compliance with the *Liquor Licence Act* and its regulations.

Please review the **Special Occasion Permit Guide** and **Responsible Tip Sheet: Special Occasion Permits – Public Events** to ensure you fully understand your responsibilities for hosting a SOP event. These are available on the AGCO’s website at www.agco.ca.

