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## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



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[www.stocktonca.gov/planningpermits](http://www.stocktonca.gov/planningpermits)

On April 19, 2016, a letters were mailed to business and property owners regarding a recently adopted amendment to the Stockton Municipal Code (SMC) for new operating requirements of alcoholic beverage sales in the City. In response to the mailing, staff received numerous telephone calls with questions regarding the new alcohol ordinance. Staff prepared the following list of the most commonly asked questions, accompanied by staff's responses to the questions.

### **What is the purpose of the letter related to the newly-adopted alcohol ordinance?**

The purpose of the letter was to advise alcohol licensees and property owners of the newly-adopted alcohol ordinance and to tell them how it affects existing alcoholic beverage establishments in the City. SMC Section 16.80.040.E.2.and 3 now states that all alcoholic beverage sales establishments that had been legally nonconforming (grandfathered) with respect to the new alcoholic beverage standards are considered "deemed approved" activities and are no longer considered legal nonconforming activities. Every "deemed approved" alcohol establishment in the City is now required to comply with operational standards contained in SMC Section 16.80.040.E.5 in order to retain that status.

### **What should I do after receiving the alcohol letter?**

You should carefully read the letter (SMC Section 16.80.040.E) and make sure that your existing alcohol-related business complies with the SMC's new operational standards, including attending a Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs (L.E.A.D.) training course that is offered by the State of California's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). Compliance with the operational standards is required in order to retain the "deemed approved" status for your business. If you have any question regarding the letter or the noted operational standards, you may contact the City Community Development Department's Planning and Engineering Services Division at (209) 937-8266.

### **My retail store offered an alternative alcohol training program for employees involved with the sale of alcoholic beverages. Can the program substitute another program or class for the L.E.A.D training course?**

ABC maintains an approved list of other Responsible Beverage Service trainer courses that may be substituted for the L.E.A.D. training. You may contact California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) at (209) 948-7739 regarding your alternate alcohol training program and whether it complies with their requirements.



### **Do business owners or employees involved with the sale of alcoholic beverage have to take the L.E.A.D. training course every year?**

The SMC does not require annual renewal of the L.E.A.D. training. Because the certificates for completion of the training do not expire and ABC regulations do not require renewal on a routine basis, the only reason for renewal would be if the certificate is lost or the City imposes such a condition on an approved Use Permit. However, the City of Stockton has not done so in the past.

