

State of Arizona
Department of Liquor Licenses and Control

Tribal Consultation Policy

PURPOSE

This policy establishes basic operating principles for the business relationship between The Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control (Department) and the tribal governments in the State of Arizona.

DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR MISSION STATEMENT

“To protect public safety and support economic growth through the responsible sale and consumption of liquor, and to efficiently license qualified applicants.”

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Department regulates the liquor industry pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §§ 4-101 through -312 (Title 4) and Arizona Administrative Code R19-1-101 through -705, along with various other state and federal authorities. The Arizona liquor industry operates under a 3-tier system: production, distribution, and the retail sale of alcoholic beverages. The Department's civilian and sworn staff license, regulate, and monitor over 16,000 liquor licenses. The Department's primary enforcement efforts focus on: (a) Eradicating liquor sales to underage persons; (b) Reducing the over-service of alcohol; and (c) Reducing acts of violence related to alcohol consumption.

POLICY

There are 22 tribal governments within Arizona. The State of Arizona and the tribes both recognize that protecting the public health, safety, and welfare by regulating the spirituous liquor industry is mutually beneficial. A spirit of cooperation should therefore guide the continuing intergovernmental relationships between the State of Arizona and the tribes.

DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION

In general, the Department has jurisdiction over the manufacture, sale, and purchase of alcohol on tribal lands. In particular, the Department directly regulates tribal businesses (such as casinos) that hold Department issued liquor licenses. The Department also regulates the wholesalers that supply alcohol to licensed tribal facilities. The illegal use and abuse of alcohol is a universal concern, and thus, as with all

licensees, the Department encourages voluntary compliance by tribal licensees and cooperation between the Department and tribes in licensing and disciplinary matters.

The Department is committed to developing collaborative relationships with tribes to address concerns related to illegal liquor activities and has developed this consultation policy to guide our work and interactions with them.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. The Department will, whenever possible, conduct liquor law training for tribal staff at the request of a tribe and will open its liquor law training classes to tribal officers.**
- 2. The Department will share, at a tribe's request, appropriate technical data and information with tribal officials related to liquor law enforcement.**
- 3. The Department will conduct, upon request of a tribe, liquor law enforcement on tribal land in partnership with tribal police agencies.**
- 4. The Department will, at a tribe's request and when resources allow, participate in community education/outreach activities on tribal land.**
- 5. The Department will, when necessary, conduct liquor law enforcement at licensed tribal facilities.**

**John Cocca,
Director
Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control**