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# The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

## EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2290/24 - 2022 ජූලි මස 28 වැනි බ්‍රහස්පතින්දා - 2022.07.28  
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(Published by Authority)

## PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

### Government Notifications

#### THE EXCISE ORDINANCE

Excise Notification No. 05/2022

#### SOFT LIQUOR LICENSES

BY Virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 32 read with Section 25 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52), I, Ranil Wickremesinghe, Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies authorize the Commissioner General of Excise, under the authority vested in him by Section 7. (a) of the Excise Ordinance, to authorize only for the consumption of fermented liquor including wine and beer (soft liquor) inside the hotels and restaurants registered under the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority which provide food and beverages to facilities tourists and the tourism institutions which provide accommodation and services situated in tourism zones identified by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority as a flexible strategic approach which is required to promote the tourism industry under the below mentioned rules and restrictions.

These rules shall come into force on July 28, 2022.

**RANIL WICKREMESINGHE,**  
Minister of Finance, Economic  
Stabilization and National Policies.

Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization  
and National Policies,  
Colombo 01.  
28th July, 2022.



### RULES

1. In similar to the rules stipulated under Section 18 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52), this license is applicable and authorized only for the consumption of fermented liquor including wine and beer (soft liquor) within the relevant premises.
2. This license shall be applicable for
  - (a) the institutions registered under the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and recommended by the Authority as mentioned specifically in schedule I and;
  - (b) the tourism institutions situated in the tourism zones identified by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority which provide food and beverages and accommodation facilities recommended by the Authority.

for the consumption of soft liquor in the relevant premises only.

3. Permission shall only be granted to consume soft liquor inside the approved border limits of the premises which is approved at the time of applying.
4. A valid Certificate of Business Registration as per the Business Names Act No. 7 of 1987 or in case of a Company, Company Registration Certificate certified by a notary public shall be provided for a given time period for the place of applying which provide food and beverages and services to facilitate tourists.
5. An affidavit of the applicant stating that the applicant has not been convicted of any offense under the Penal Code or the Excise Ordinance or any other offense of character within the last five (5) years and a report obtained from the officer-in-charge of the police station in the area where the licensed premises is located stating that the applicant has not been convicted of any offense under the Penal Code or the Excise Ordinance within the last five (5) years should be submitted.
6. When applying for a new license or when a license holder applies for renewal of the license, a non-refundable application fee of Rs. 5,000.00 should be paid and proof of payment should be submitted.
7. The license fee for this shall be as per Schedule II and any license shall be valid for a maximum period of one calendar year. However, new licenses issued in the middle of the year shall be issued on payment of the full license fee for that year for the remaining period.
8. Purchasing soft liquor from other than an authorized dealer is prohibited. Accounts of soft liquor brought into and consumed in the premises concerned shall be maintained in such forms as may be approved by the Commissioner General of Excise.
9. The ownership of the premises for which the license is granted shall not be changed or transferred without the consent of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and the Commissioner General of Excise. Such change will be effective after the approval of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and Commissioner General of Excise and after paying an amount of ten lakh rupees.
10. From the date of commencement of these rules, all persons who intend to obtain the relevant approval shall apply as per the application form specified in Schedule III, and the Commissioner General of Excise shall proceed to issue the special permit only through that form.
11. If any complaint is received, the relevant authorization, refusal or cancellation shall be subject to the discretion of the Commissioner General of Excise after an investigation.

12. If the rules laid down by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and the Commissioner General of Excise are violated, the approval given for the use of soft liquor will be cancelled. Further, Technical Crime Reports shall be submitted if it is found that the rules mentioned herein have been violated as per the directives of the Excise Ordinance. The approval given can be changed only by the Commissioner General of Excise.
13. If the approval given to the hotel by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority is cancelled, the approval given by the Commissioner General of Excise for the use of soft liquor will automatically be cancelled.
14. Soft liquor should not be served on all Full Moon Poya Days.

#### SCHEDULE I

**Tourism institutions which provide accommodation and services registered under Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.**

<i>Serial. No.</i>	<i>Tourism Institution Category</i>	<i>Tourism Institutions which provide accommodation and service facilities</i>
1	Accommodation Category	Classified Tourist Hotel
2		Boutique Hotel
3		Boutique Villa
4		Eco Lodge
5		Heritage Hotel
6		Tourist Hotel
7		Guest House
8		Tourist Hostel
9		Home Stay Unit
10		Bungalow
11		Heritage Bungalow
12		Heritage Home
13		Camping Site
14		Themed Accommodation
15		Tourist Apartment Hotel
16	Service Category	Restaurants
17		Food Court
18		Tourist Friendly Eating Places

#### SCHEDULE II - LICENSE FEE

Fee for issuing license under rules stipulated in this excise notification to consume only soft liquor  
inside the premises

License	Annual Fee
Soft liquor license	Rs. 25,000.00

SCHEDULE III - FORMAT FOR ISSUING LICENSE

Format for issuing license under rules stipulated in this excise notification to consume only soft liquor inside the premises

**Excise Department of Sri Lanka**

(1) District : ..... Authorization No. : .....  
Date of Issue : ..... Date of Expiry .....  
Type of tourism institution : .....  
Authorization fee : .....  
Stamp fee : .....

(2) Name and address of the tourism institution :

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(3) By virtue of the powers vested in me under the Excise Ordinance, I hereby authorize the consumption of soft liquor only in the above tourism institution.

Date : .....

.....  
Commissioner General of  
Excise

Copies to :

1. Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
2. Assistant Excise Commissioner (..... Province)
3. Excise Superintendent (.....)
4. Excise OIC (.....)

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