Washington State
Liquor Control Board

Liquor Control Board Interim Policy BIP-04-2011

Subject: VIP Airport Lounge Liquor License

Effective Date: June 29, 2011

Ending Date: Upon adoption of rules to implement this policy.

Approved:

Sharon Foster, Chairman

Ruthann Kurose, Board Member

Chris Marr, Board Member

Purpose:
SSB 5156 created a VIP Airport Lounge liquor license. The new license allows VIP airport lounge operators to sell or provide spirits, wine, and beer for on-premises consumption as retail licensed premises. Rules are needed to clarify this legislation.

Policy Statement:
This policy clarifies the language for a VIP Airport Lounge liquor license, specifically what is allowed under the liquor license and what the requirements are to obtain the liquor license.

- A VIP airport lounge is an establishment in an international airport, beyond security checkpoints.
- A VIP airport lounge licensee is allowed to sell or provide complimentary spirits, wine, or beer by the individual serving for consumption on the VIP airport lounge premises to persons at least 21 years of age.
- Spirits must be purchased from the licensee's assigned liquor store. Beer and wine must be purchased from a local distributor or retail outlet. A licensee may purchase wine directly from the manufacturer if the licensee holds an endorsement to receive direct shipments from the manufacturer.
- The VIP airport lounge licensee may only serve liquor from a service bar. A service bar is a work station primarily used to prepare and sell alcoholic beverages that are picked up by customers. Customers are not permitted to sit and consume food or alcohol at a service bar.

- Alcohol servers must have a valid MAST permit.
- The entity holding the VIP airport lounge liquor license must be the entity in control of the day-to-day operations of the VIP airport lounge.

- Access to a VIP airport lounge is generally limited to:
    - ticketed airline passengers of any age who have a first class, executive or business class ticket;
    - qualified members or guests of loyalty incentive programs;
    - members or guests of enhanced amenities programs;
    - passengers or airline employees issued a pass by the airline for access; and
    - airport, airline employees, government officials and attendees of airport authority or airlines for business promotion with controlled access by the VIP airport lounge licensee.

Alcohol inventory must be stored on the VIP airport lounge licensed premises.

Applicants are required to submit an application and any documents required by Licensing Division to include a sketch of the VIP airport lounge area including the service bar area and where the alcohol inventory will be stored.