

Applying for a Liquor License

Alcohol permits are administered by the Qatar Distribution Company and application forms are readily available at their stores. Patrons have to display their permit when they enter the store.

In order to apply for a liquor license, the applicant needs to present the following documents:

- A completed application form
- Passport and residence visa copy
- Qatar ID copy
- A letter, in English, from the applicant's sponsoring company. Letters written in Arabic are only accepted if they are accompanied by a stamped translation. Most companies' HR departments are aware of the requirements of a liquor license letter.

The company letter that is required is not just a simple salary certificate letter like the one needed for opening a bank account or applying for a visa.

The company letter for a liquor license is much more detailed. It must be addressed to the Qatar Distribution Company, be stamped and signed by an authorised person within the company, and include the following information:

- The applicant's position within the company
- The applicant's basic salary. The word 'basic' has to be used. To get a permit, applicants must have a minimum basic salary of QR 4,000 or USD 1,100
- Whether the applicant receives an accommodation entitlement or has free accommodation
- The applicant's marital status

All applicants have to pay a returnable deposit and declare their religion when applying for a liquor license. Only non-Muslim expatriates are allowed to apply for a liquor license.