



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of the State Treasurer
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
239 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114*

Deborah B. Goldberg
Treasurer and Receiver General

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Chairman

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION ADVISORY REGARDING
GUIDELINES FOR EXTENSION OF PREMISES TO PATIO AND OUTDOOR AREAS**

On July 28, 2015, at a public meeting, the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission approved amendments to its "Guidelines for Extension of Premises to Patio and Outdoor Areas." These amended guidelines supersede the previously issued Guidelines from August 22, 1989. A copy of the amended Guidelines are attached to this Advisory.

As a reminder, all licensees must ensure that they are in compliance with the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and that sale of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by applicable law. Questions concerning this Advisory can be directed to Ralph Sacramone, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission at (617) 727-3040 x 731.

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**GUIDELINES FOR EXTENSION OF PREMISES TO
PATIO AND OUTDOOR AREAS**

1. Alcoholic beverages cannot be served outside of a licensed establishment unless and until an application to extend the licensed premises has been approved.
2. An application to extend the premises must describe the area in detail, including dimensions, seating capacity, and maximum occupancy.
3. The premises must be enclosed by a fence, rope, or other means to prevent access from a public walkway.
4. The outdoor area must be contiguous to the licensed premises with either (a) a clear view of the area from inside the premises, or, alternatively (b) the licensee may commit to providing management personnel dedicated to the area.
5. The applicant must have a lease or documents for the right to occupy the proposed area.
6. The licensing authorities should consider the type of neighborhood and the potential for noise in the environs.
7. Preferred are outdoor areas where alcohol is served to patrons who are seated at the tables and where food is also available.