

PROS AND CONS OF MALT LIQUOR POLICY FORMATS

PROS

CONS

Voluntary Agreements	
May be the only way to get at a problem when the state has exclusive authority to license and regulate alcohol retailers, or in local environments that are very hostile to alcohol regulations.	Have proven unsuccessful in many cities because retailers fail to comply with the agreements, often because they fear their competitors are not complying.
Can be used to address localized problems on a case-by-case basis. Can target problematic stores while not restricting other stores.	Implementation can be time-consuming when agreements must be negotiated with each store individually.
Establishes a dialogue with retailers and encourages responsible retailing. Can be used as an incentive in license negotiations (e.g., applications for new licenses in high-crime areas may be more likely to be approved if the retailer agrees to not sell singles).	Can be difficult to enforce (e.g., no teeth and enforcement officers must track different operating conditions for each store), thus compliance may be more likely to erode over time.
May operate under the radar of trade associations and the alcohol industry.	Attempts to enlist more retailers may get the attention of trade associations/alcohol industry, who will then oppose the policy, making it difficult for the original merchants to continue complying.
Can be useful as a first step toward, and/or to illustrate the need for, a mandatory policy (e.g., failure to gain compliance through voluntary participation can strengthen the case for a mandatory policy).	
Conditional Use Permits	
Can be used in states where the state has exclusive authority to license alcohol retailers.	Since most CUPs only apply to new licenses, many of the worst offenders may be exempted from requirements (grandfathered-in).
May be imposed on all new outlets, or on a discretionary, case-by-case basis to address localized problems while not restricting other stores.	May be seen as discriminatory since conditions are not imposed on all retailers equally.
Since state licenses are rarely revoked (cite), may improve enforcement by giving more control to local enforcement officers.	Revocation of a CUP while a state license remains in effect can lead to confusion over whether the store is operating legally.
	May be difficult to enforce, as enforcement officers must track different operating conditions for each store.
Alcohol Impact Area or Moratorium Zone	
Can target high-crime/nuisance areas without restricting sales elsewhere in the city.	May push the problem into other areas if policy boundaries are not large enough.
May be easier to enforce than case-by-case restrictions because the policy applies equally to all retailers in a given area.	Depending on the restriction (e.g. single sales ban), can affect retailers in the area that are not part of the problem (e.g., retailers who wish to sell craft or premium singles).
	May be more difficult to get adopted due to their broad scope (e.g., may require greater local authority for alcohol control than some other policy formats and/or may increase the likelihood of alcohol industry opposition).
	Can be a lengthy, time-intensive process.
City-Wide Ordinance	
Broad coverage reduces the possibility of pushing the problem into other areas	May be difficult to get adopted due to their broader scope (e.g., may require greater local authority for alcohol control than some other policy formats and/or may increase the likelihood of alcohol industry opposition).
May be easier to enforce than case-by-case restrictions because the policy applies equally to all retailers.	Impacts neighborhoods and/or retailers that may not be part of the problem. May be costly to enforce in all outlets city-wide
May be less likely to be seen as discriminatory if it treats all retailers equally.	May be legally challenged if it results in a complete ban on a legal product city-wide.
	A larger area in which to organize and mobilize support.
License Conditions	
May be imposed on all new licenses, or on a discretionary, case-by-case basis to address localized problems while not restricting other stores.	May be seen as discriminatory if conditions are not imposed on all retailers equally.
	May be difficult to enforce, as enforcement officers must track different operating conditions for each store.