
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1996 No. 3158

The Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

PART II

THE GENERAL LICENSING SYSTEM

Prohibition on sale of intoxicating liquor without a licence

3.—(1) Except as permitted by this Order, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell intoxicating liquor by retail unless he holds a licence authorising him to do so in the course of a business carried on in premises specified in the licence.

(2) Any person who, himself or by his servant or agent,—

- (a) where he is not the holder of a licence, sells intoxicating liquor by retail or makes it available for purchase by retail, or
- (b) where he is the holder of a licence, either sells intoxicating liquor by retail or makes it available for purchase by retail in any premises or place where he is not authorised under this Order to sell such liquor by retail,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both and any intoxicating liquor found in his possession and its containers shall be liable to be forfeited.

(3) Where intoxicating liquor is sold or made available for purchase in any premises in contravention of this Article, every occupier of the premises who is proved to have had knowledge of or consented to the contravention shall be guilty of an offence under this Article.

(4) Without prejudice to Article 80, for the purposes of this Article a vessel shall be deemed to be premises and paragraph (3) shall apply to the master of a vessel as it applies to the occupier of premises.

Changes to legislation:

The Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996, Section 3 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 August 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- [art. 57B inserted by 2011 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 5](#)