



BUYING ALCOHOL IN NUNAVUT

Buying alcohol in Nunavut is a unique experience compared to other jurisdictions in Canada. To start with there are no liquor stores and all alcohol for private consumption must be ordered and brought in by plane or on sealift, which means additional shipping costs and in some cases, import permit fees. It can take several days to process and receive your liquor order so careful planning is often necessary.

There are also different rules on having and drinking alcohol depending on which of Nunavut's 25 communities you live in. Nunavut's Liquor distribution system, governed by the Nunavut *Liquor Act*, is based on a three level restriction system. All of Nunavut's communities fall under one of the following three categories: prohibited, restricted or unrestricted, which means liquor purchasing and consumption regulations vary by community.

This document is to help clarify the dos and don'ts of importing alcohol for personal consumption in Nunavut.

PROHIBITED vs. RESTRICTED vs. UNRESTRICTED

- 1) **PROHIBITED COMMUNITY:** where absolutely no alcohol is allowed, by law, in the community.
- 2) **RESTRICTED COMMUNITY:** where a panel of community elected members sits as an Alcohol Education Committee (AEC), responsible for promoting alcohol awareness and for regulating the purchase, sale and import of alcohol in the community.

Each AEC has its own community specific restriction regulations which set out its powers and responsibilities.

You will need to contact the Nunavut Liquor Commission or Nunavut Liquor Enforcement, for more detailed information on a particular community's restriction regulations or AEC contact information at: **(867) 645-8475**

- 3) **UNRESTRICTED COMMUNITY:** where only the general rules concerning the import, purchase and consumption of alcohol set out under the Nunavut *Liquor Act* apply.

NUNAVUT COMMUNITIES BY RESTRICTION STATUS		
PROHIBITED	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED
Arviat	Arctic Bay	Bathurst Inlet
Coral Harbour	Baker Lake	Grise Fiord
Gjoa Haven	Cambridge Bay	Iqaluit
Kimmirut	Cape Dorset	Rankin Inlet
Kugaaruk	Chesterfield Inlet	Taloyoak
Pangnirtung	Clyde River	
Sanikiluaq	Hall Beach	
	Igloolik	
	Kugluktuk	
	Pond Inlet	
	Qikiqtarjuaq	
	Repulse Bay	
	Whale Cove	

BRINGING ALCOHOL INTO NUNAVUT

TWO BASIC RULES:

There are two basic rules you need to follow when buying and bringing alcohol into Nunavut:

1. IT IS **ILLEGAL** TO IMPORT, PURCHASE, OR CONSUME ANY AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL IN COMMUNITIES DESIGNATED AS **PROHIBITED**; AND

2. YOU MUST GET PERMISSION FROM THE LOCAL ALCOHOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE **BEFORE** BRINGING ALCOHOL INTO ANY **RESTRICTED** COMMUNITY.

You can bring **without** a permit into **UNRESTRICTED** communities the following amounts of alcohol in with you (i.e. in your baggage):

- (a) 1140 ml of spirits, or
- (b) 1140 ml of wine, or
- (c) 4260 ml of beer (equivalent of 12x355 ml containers).

Whether you live in an **UNRESTRICTED** or **RESTRICTED** community, if you want to bring in or have shipped in more than these amounts, you need an import permit from the regional Nunavut Liquor Enforcement agent.

You can buy alcohol within Nunavut by ordering it from the Nunavut Liquor Commission warehouse **without** an import permit.

ORDERING LIQUOR IN NUNAVUT

ORDERING LIQUOR FROM THE NUNAVUT LIQUOR COMMISSION:

All orders for alcohol from the Nunavut Liquor Commission must go through the Commission's headquarters in Rankin Inlet. If you live in a **RESTRICTED** community, and want to import alcohol from outside of Nunavut, you need to send your request for an import permit to the Commission's headquarters, where it will be matched to your community's most updated AEC approved list.

Rankin Inlet Liquor Warehouse:

Phone: 867-645-8475
Fax: 867-645-3327

IMPORTING LIQUOR FROM OUTSIDE NUNAVUT:

To import alcohol from outside of Nunavut, you need an import permit from your Nunavut Liquor Enforcement agent for your region. Liquor stores in other provinces and territories will not process your order without an import permit. ***Import permits should be purchased in person, however, if you need to order your permit by fax you will be asked to include valid photo ID with your request.***

Commonly, people order from major gateway cities such as Ottawa or Montréal (for the Qikiqtaaluk), Churchill (for the Kivalliq) and Yellowknife or Edmonton (for the Kitikmeot). Please see local liquor store listings in those cities for more information about selection and prices.

WHERE TO PURCHASE IMPORT PERMITS:

Qikiqtaaluk	Kivalliq	Kitikmeot
Iqaluit: Parnaivik Building 924 ☎ 867-975-6863 📠 867-975-6849	Rankin Inlet: Siniktarvik Building ☎ 867-645-8486 📠 867-645-8487	Cambridge Bay: Cambridge Bay Enterprises ☎ 867-983-2777 📠 867-983-2127 Kugluktuk: AAA Services Kugluktuk ☎ 867-982-3280 📠 867-982-3380/3279

* You need to include valid photo identification if you are going to submit your permit purchase request by fax.

For information on cargo rates and flight schedules please call your preferred carrier or visit them on the web:

First Air Cargo Call Center at 1-800-568-7497 - www.firstair.ca/Cargo_Information/index.html

Canadian North Cargo toll free number 1-866-663-2223 - www.canadiannorth.com/Cargo/default.asp

Calm Air Cargo toll free number 1-800-839-2256 – www.calmair.com