



Deemed Approved Ordinance (DAO)

The DAO states that businesses selling alcoholic beverages have a responsibility to the surrounding community to maintain their business in a lawful and beneficial manner.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the goal of the Deemed Approved Ordinance (DAO)?

Strengthen neighborhood and community partnerships to promote the health, safety and welfare of the residents of San Francisco.

What is the Deemed Approved Ordinance?

The DAO is a San Francisco City & County regulation that requires businesses that sell alcoholic beverages to maintain their businesses in a lawful and beneficial manner for the public and the surrounding community.

What are the benefits of the Deemed Approved Ordinance?

- The DAO establishes a standard of practice for businesses that sell alcoholic beverages, and;
- Promotes partnerships between businesses, community residents and city agencies to make our city a more beautiful place to live in.

What does the DAO have to do with me?

San Francisco residents have the right to live and work in a peaceful environment free from illegal or harmful activities. The regulation maintains that businesses that sell alcoholic beverages like all other businesses in a neighborhood are responsible for helping to prevent activities which are illegal or harmful to the community.

Businesses that sell alcoholic beverages are required to follow all federal, state, and local laws dealing with the sale of alcohol. In addition, the “Deemed Approved Ordinance” establishes a performance standard that requires all off sale alcohol licensed businesses to:

- Maintain a clean, well-lit, and safe premise.
- Report any illegal activities or nuisances.

The DAO also encourages partnerships with neighborhood residents through providing public services such as:

- Providing a variety of products for sale.
- Participating in neighborhood activities and projects.

In order to maintain a safe and healthy neighborhood all of us have to do our part. Each business that sells alcoholic beverages is responsible for reporting nuisances and illegal activities in order to curtail such activities.

Do I need to post the DAO performance standards at my business?

YES. The DAO performance standards are to be posted in a conspicuous and unobstructed place visible from the entrance of the business for public view.

Why do I have to pay a fee if I already have a state license to sell alcoholic beverages?

- The California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) issues licenses to businesses to sell alcoholic beverages.
- The “Deemed Approved Ordinance” is a San Francisco City & County land use law passed in 2006. DAO establishes a fee-based approval process for businesses to use property (premises) for the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Where do the fees for the DAO go?

Fees from the DAO go toward the implementation of an education and outreach program to strengthen neighborhood and community partnerships in order to promote the health, safety and welfare of the residents of San Francisco.

Who is working on the Deemed Approved Ordinance?

- San Francisco Department of Public Health
- San Francisco Police Department
- San Francisco Tax Collector’s Office
- Off-Sale Liquor License Holders
- DAO Community Advisory Committee

How can I get involved in the Deemed Approved Ordinance?

Become an active community member and advocate for the DAO by participating in the DAO community advisory committee (CAC). The CAC will provide guidance and recommendations on the implementation and outreach efforts of the DAO. If you are interested, please call SFDPH @ 581-2400.