

Retail Drug Licence Guide

Pharmacy & Chemist Retail

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This guide explains what the tool produces, how to use the output, and what to watch for. The actual output (draft/report) is generated on the tool page.

Background

Produces a step-by-step guide to obtaining a retail drug licence — eligibility, registered pharmacist, premises and storage conditions, documents, process and conditions under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act/Rules. Use it to license medicine retail. For overall licensing use the Licensing Roadmap.

Purpose of this tool & output

Get a licence to sell medicines

How the output is used

Use it to get a licence to sell medicines — the retail drug licence (Form 20 and 21) a chemist must hold before dispensing.

Who receives it

The licence is granted by the State Drugs Control Administration (Licensing Authority) under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules.

How to submit / file it

Apply (Form 19) with the premises, refrigerator, registered-pharmacist details and area norms; a Drug Inspector inspects before the Form 20/21 licence is granted.

Fees & charges

A licence fee per the Rules and periodic renewal (typically every five years); operating without it is a punishable offence.

Who should vet it

The Drug Inspector and a pharmacy-licence consultant, who verify the premises, pharmacist and records before grant.

Important cautions

A retail drug licence requires a registered pharmacist, compliant premises (area, refrigeration) and drug-inspector approval, and mandates pharmacist presence and record-keeping. Forms and exact requirements vary by state. Confirm current requirements and the application process with the state Drugs Control department.

Companion documents

- Pharmacy Licensing Roadmap
- Registered Pharmacist Requirement Guide
- Wholesale Drug Licence Guide
- Schedule H / H1 / X Compliance Guide
- Pharmacy GST Setup Guide
- Shops & Establishment / Local Registration

This is AI-assisted guidance. Verify with a qualified professional before any binding decision. Fees, authorities and processes vary by state and change over time — confirm with your state authority.