



Washington State Liquor Control Board

Transition to Private Liquor Sales: 1183 Fact Sheet

License Title: Spirits Certificate of Approval Liquor License
Effective Date: March 1, 2012
Creates a new section in RCW 66.24

Background

1. The new section creates new Certificate of Approval (COA) liquor licenses types for any of the following spirits related suppliers located outside of the state of Washington but within the United States:

- A spirits manufacturer;
- A spirits distributor;
- A spirits importer; or
- A bottler of spirits;

2. A spirits manufacturer that is the brand owner of the product they make qualifies for the **Spirit COA** license type.

- The annual fee for this endorsement is \$200
- Allows the shipment of spirits of their own production to licensed Washington Spirit Distributors and/or Spirit Importers

The holder of a Spirit COA license may add the additional endorsement **COA Direct to Retail** to their liquor license.

- The annual fee for this endorsement is \$100
- Allows the shipment of spirits of their own production to licensed Washington Spirit Retailers
- A spirits retailer must hold an endorsement to receive direct shipments before a Spirits COA licensee is allowed to ship spirits directly to the retailer
- The price of spirits sold to retailers may not be below acquisition cost

3. A spirits distributor, spirits importer, brand owner that is not producing their product, or production location that does not own the brand they are producing qualifies for the **Spirits Authorized Rep COA** license types.

The **Authorized Representative COA Domestic Spirits** would apply for products manufactured and bottled **within** the United States.

- The annual fee for this endorsement is \$200
- Allows the shipment of US made spirits to licensed Washington Spirit Importers and Distributors

The **Authorized Representative COA Foreign Spirits** would apply for products manufactured and bottled **outside** the United States.

- The annual fee for this endorsement is \$200
- Allows the shipment of foreign made spirits to licensed Washington Spirit Importers and Distributors

Requirements

1. The following documents are required to obtain a Certificate of Approval liquor license:

- A copy of all permits required by the federal government;
- Copies of all state licenses and permits required by the state in which your operation is located; and
- Licensing documents as determined by the Board.

How to Apply

Complete a Master Business Application and Liquor Control Board Addendum. Information can be found in the [Licensing Services](#) section of the WSLCB website at www.liq.wa.gov .

When the WSLCB Licensing Division receives the application:

- A customer service representative will contact the applicant to request additional documents required to process the application.
- When all documents and fees are received, the applicant will receive a letter from the WSLCB Licensing Division with approval of the liquor license.
- When the license is approved Business Licensing is notified of the approval and will send out a copy of your new business license showing the approved liquor license in the body of the business license. You should receive this within 14 days of receipt of your letter from the WSLCB.

Contact Information

For specific questions, please contact WSLCB Customer Service, at 360-664-1600 (press 1 and then 2 for non-retail) or www.liq.wa.gov