



Washington State  
**Liquor Control Board**

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**Liquor Control Board Interim Policy BIP-10-2014**

**Subject:** Spirits Sampling in Spirits Retail Licensed Premises

**Effective Date:** October 15, 2014

**Ending Date:** Upon adoption of rules to implement this policy.

**Approved:**

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Sharon Foster, Chairman

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Ruthann Kurose, Board Member

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Chris Marr, Board Member

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**Purpose:**

The board will be entering into rulemaking to revise WAC 314-02-106 which lists the requirements for spirits sampling by spirits retail licensees. An interim policy is needed until a revision in the rules is adopted to allow spirits retail licensees to alter spirits samples with mixers in addition to ice and/or water.

**Policy Statement:**

Until superseded by rule, in order to be issued a spirits sampling endorsement, the licensee must meet the following criteria:

- Be a participant in the Responsible Vendor Program;
- The licensee has not had more than one public safety administrative violation within the last two years. The two year window is counted from two years prior to the date of the application for the spirits sampling endorsement. (See WAC 314-29-020 for a list of public safety violations.)
- Signs advertising spirits samplings may not be placed in the windows or outside of the premises that can be viewed from the public right of way.

Spirits samplings are to be conducted in the following manner:

- Spirits samplings service area and facilities must be located within the licensee's fully enclosed retail area and must be of a size and design that the licensee can observe and control persons in the area.
- The licensee must provide a sketch of the sampling area. Fixed or moveable barriers are required around the sampling area to ensure that persons under 21 years of age and apparently intoxicated persons cannot possess or consume alcohol.
- Each sample may be no more than one-half ounce of spirits, and no more than a total of one and one-half ounces of spirits samples per person during any one visit to the premises.
- Spirit samples may be altered with mixers, ice, and/or water.
- The licensee must have food available for the sampling participants.
- Customers must remain in the service area while consuming samples.
- Spirits sampling activities are subject to RCW 66.28.305 and RCW 66.28.040.
- Employees serving beer and wine during tasting events must hold a class 12 server permit.

Licensees are also required to provide a sketch of the area where spirits samplings will be conducted. The sketch is to be included with the application for the spirits sampling endorsement.

Licensees are required to send a list of scheduled spirits samplings to their regional enforcement office at the beginning of each month. The date and time for each beer and wine tasting must be included.