



Notice of Emergency Rule Banning Alcohol Energy Drinks in the State of Washington

On November 10, 2010, the Washington State Liquor Control Board adopted an emergency rule prohibiting the sale, importation, and distribution of alcohol energy drinks in the State of Washington after November 17, 2010.

The emergency rule expires automatically after 120 days (March 10, 2011). The board has also filed a pre-proposal statement of inquiry (CR 101) with the Code Reviser's Office to begin permanent rulemaking.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen McCall, Rules Coordinator, at (360) 664-1631 or e-mail at rules@liq.wa.gov.

What are the agency's reasons for adopting this emergency rule?

The mission of the Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB) includes ensuring the responsible sale, and preventing the misuse of, alcohol. As part of this mission, the Board endeavors to ensure that products which pose a threat to public safety are handled appropriately. The board is particularly concerned about alcohol energy drinks, which are marketed in a way that implies the consumption of these beverages has a stimulating or energizing effect. Alcohol energy drinks have become increasingly popular, especially among underage drinkers. These beverages promote a situation where people may become inebriated, but cannot judge their own condition, which is contrary to human health and public safety. This is contrary to the mission of the WSLCB.

WAC Changes

NEW SECTION

WAC 314-20-022 Alcohol energy drinks. No product that combines beer, strong beer, or malt liquor with caffeine, guarana, taurine, or other similar substances which are commonly referred to as "alcohol energy drinks" may be imported into the state, produced, manufactured, distributed, sold or offered for sale by a licensed retailer in the state of Washington after November 17, 2010.