



Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

Date: March 27, 2020

To: Jane Rushford, Board Chair
Ollie Garrett, Board Member
Russ Hauge, Board Member

From: Kathy Hoffman, Agency Policy and Rules Coordinator

Copy: Rick Garza, Agency Director
Megan Duffy, Deputy Director
Justin Nordhorn, Chief of Enforcement
Becky Smith, Licensing Director
Jim Morgan, Chief Financial Officer

Subject: **Approval to adopt an emergency rule (CR 103E) regarding WAC 314-02-109 – Quarterly Reporting and Payment Requirements for a Spirits Retail License**

Establishments licensed by the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (Board) are required to timely remit various taxes and fees by a date certain, or a mandatory late payment penalty will be imposed. As a result of the global novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, many of these establishments are suffering significant economic hardships, and in some cases, their financial resources are becoming severely limited.

The Board has the authority under RCW 66.24.630 and RCW 66.28.370 to both assess and waive penalties for spirits retail licenses. Consistent with that authority, this emergency rule:

- Provides a waiver of penalties, retroactive to February 29, 2020, for taxes that become due while Governor's Proclamation 20-13 is in effect;
- Supports the ability of businesses to adjust to the COVID-19 outbreak; and
- Reduces economic hardships suffered by businesses during the temporary suspension of business consistent with Governor's Proclamation 20-13.

This rule does **not** relieve any WSLCB licensee from its statutory obligation to remit taxes to the WSLCB.

Process

The Agency Policy and Rules Coordinator requests that the Board adopt the emergency rule as presented, and requests approval to file this emergency rule with the

Washington State Office of the Code Reviser. A CR 103E Memorandum on this rule was presented at the Board meeting on March 27, 2020, and is attached to this order.

If adopted, the timeline for the rule making process is outlined below:

March 27, 2020	Board is asked to adopt the emergency rulemaking order (CR 103E) as described above.
March 27, 2020	Emergency rule becomes effective.

_____ Approve	_____ Disapprove	_____	_____
		Jane Rushford, Chair	Date

_____ Approve	_____ Disapprove	_____	_____
		Ollie Garrett, Board Member	Date

_____ Approve	_____ Disapprove	_____	_____
		Russ Hauge, Board Member	Date

Attachment: CR 103E Memorandum



CR 103E Memorandum

WAC 314-02-109 – Quarterly Reporting and Payment Requirements for a Spirits Retail License

Date: March 27, 2020
Presented by: Kathy Hoffman, Agency Policy and Rules Coordinator

Issue:

On February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-05 that confirmed the person-to-person spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Washington State, and proclaimed a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington based on the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States.

On March 16, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-13 that imposed statewide limits on food and beverage services, and areas of congregation to limit opportunities for disease exposure and transmission in the state. Proclamation 20-13 was based on a number of findings, including but not limited to:

- Guidance from the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention to reduce the size of gatherings from 250 persons to 50 persons; and
- The necessity to prohibit any number of people from congregating in public venues for the purposes of entertainment, recreation, food and beverage service, theater, bowling or other similar activities.

The Board administers licensing, enforcement and education services for establishments that sell alcohol for on and off premises consumption. Consistent with statute, regulation, and administrative provisions, licensees under the administration of the Board are subject to various taxes and fees dependent on product and license type. Licensees are required to timely report and remit those taxes and fees to the Board. If the Board determines that a licensee is delinquent

in reporting or remitting any of the required taxes and fees, including any penalties on required taxes, the Board may suspend, or deny renewal or issuance of a license.

All entities and license types under the authority of the Board have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and enforcing statutes and rules related to these entities and license types affects their ability to maintain and sustain operations while effectively participating in combating the spread of COVID-19.

Reasons why rules are needed:

The Board has the authority under RCW 66.24.630 and RCW 66.28.370 to both assess and waive penalties for spirits retail licenses. This emergency rule:

- Provides a waiver, retroactive to February 29, 2020, of penalties for taxes that become due while Governor's Proclamation 20-13 is in effect;
- Supports the ability of businesses to adjust to the COVID-19 outbreak; and
- Reduces economic hardships suffered by businesses during the temporary suspension of business consistent with Governor's Proclamation 20-13.

This rule does **not** relieve any WSLCB licensee from its statutory obligations to remit taxes to the WSLCB.

Process

Consistent with RCW 34.05.350, any agency may find that the immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest. This rule change is exempt from the filing of a CR 101, analytical, and public hearing requirements.

An emergency rule adopted under RCW 34.05.350 takes effect upon filing with the code reviser, unless a later date is specified in the order of adoption, and may not remain in effect for longer than one hundred twenty days after filing.

Notice will be sent to all who have indicated that they want to receive notice of rule activity, and posted to the Board's website.



RULE-MAKING ORDER

EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

CR-103E (December 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.350
and 34.05.360)

Agency: Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

- ☒ Immediately upon filing.
☐ Later (specify) _____

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: WAC 314-02-109 – What are the quarterly reporting and payment requirements for a spirits retailer license? The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (Board) has adopted an emergency rule to amend WAC 314-02-109 that provides a retroactive waiver of penalties for taxes that become due under RCW 66.24.630 and RCW 66.28.370 while Proclamation 20-13 is in effect.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New:
 Repealed:
 Amended: WAC 314-02-109
 Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 66.24.630; RCW 66.28.370; RCW 66.08.0501

Other authority:

EMERGENCY RULE

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- ☒ That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
☐ That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding: On February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-05 that confirmed the person-to-person spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Washington State, and proclaimed a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington based on the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States.

On March 16, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-13 that imposed statewide limits on food and beverage services, and areas of congregation to limit opportunities for disease exposure and transmission in the State. Proclamation 20-13 was based on both guidance from the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention to reduce the size of gatherings from 250 persons to 50 persons, and the necessity to prohibit any number of people from congregating in public venues for the purposes of entertainment, recreation, food or beverage service, theater, bowling or other similar activities.

The Board administers licensing, enforcement and education services for establishments that sell alcohol for on and off premises consumption. Consistent with statute, regulation and administrative provisions, licensees under the administration of the Board are subject to various taxes and fees dependent on product and license type. Licensees are required to timely report and remit those taxes and fees to the Board. If the Board determines that a licensee is delinquent in reporting or remitting any of the required taxes and fees, including any penalties on required taxes, the Board may suspend, or deny renewal or issuance of a license.

All entities and license types under the authority of the Board have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and enforcing statutes and rules related to these entities and license types affects the ability of these entities to maintain and sustain operations while effectively participating in combating the spread of COVID-19.

The Board has the authority under RCW 66.24.630 and RCW 66.28.370 to both assess and waive penalties for spirits retail licenses. This emergency rule:

- Provides a waiver of penalties, retroactive to February 29, 2020, for taxes that become due while Governor's Proclamation 20-13 is in effect;
- Supports the ability of businesses to adjust to the COVID-19 outbreak; and
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**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New	_____	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Pilot rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Other alternative rule making:	New	_____	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	_____

Date Adopted: March 27, 2020

Name: Jane Rushford

Title: Board Chair

Signature:

Place signature here

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-12-030, filed 5/31/17, effective 7/1/17)

WAC 314-02-109 What are the quarterly reporting and payment requirements for a spirits retailer license? (1) A **spirits retailer** must submit quarterly reports and payments to the board.

The required reports must be:

- (a) On a form furnished by the board;
- (b) Filed every quarter, including quarters with no activity or payment due;
- (c) Submitted, with payment due, to the board on or before the twenty-fifth day following the tax quarter (e.g., Quarter 1 (Jan., Feb., Mar.) report is due April 25th). When the twenty-fifth day of the month falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, the filing must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than the next postal business day; and
- (d) Filed separately for each liquor license held.

(2) **What if a spirits retailer licensee fails to report or pay, or reports or pays late?** Failure of a spirits retailer licensee to submit its quarterly reports and payment to the board as required in

subsection (1) of this section will be sufficient grounds for the board to suspend or revoke the liquor license.

Failure of a spirits retailer licensee to submit its quarterly reports and payment to the board for two consecutive quarters will be sufficient grounds for the board to revoke the liquor license.

A penalty of one percent per month will be assessed on any payments postmarked after the twenty-fifth day quarterly report is due. When the twenty-fifth day of the month falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, the filing must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than the next postal business day.

Absent a postmark, the date received at the Washington state liquor and cannabis board, or designee, will be used to determine if penalties are to be assessed.

(3) Subsection (2) of this section is waived, retroactive to February 29, 2020, while Governor's Proclamation 20-13 is in effect.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 66.08.030. WSR 17-12-030, § 314-02-109, filed 5/31/17, effective 7/1/17; WSR 16-01-102, § 314-02-109, filed 12/16/15, effective 1/16/16; WSR 14-12-101, § 314-02-109, filed 6/4/14, effective 7/5/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 66.24.630, 66.24.055, 66.24.145 and 66.08.030. WSR 13-07-085, § 314-02-109, filed 3/20/13, effective 4/20/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 66.08.030,

66.24.055, 66.24.160, 66.24.630, and 66.24.640. WSR 12-12-065, § 314-02-109, filed 6/5/12, effective 7/6/12.]