



# RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

## CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: October 02, 2019

TIME: 2:53 PM

WSR 19-21-002

**Agency:** Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

**Effective date of rule:**

**Permanent Rules**

- 31 days after filing.
- Other (specify) January 1, 2020 (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

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

- Yes  No If Yes, explain: Revisions to these rules are necessary because of a Court of Appeals Decision, Washington Restaurant Association, et.al., v. WSLCB, 200 Wn.App. 119, 401 P.3d 428 (2017)

**Purpose:** The revised rules revisions reflect that distributor license fees cannot be collected from licensed distillers or certificate of approval holders. The revisions require retailers selling spirits for resale to pay the distributor license fee when no other distributor license fee has been paid. Revisions clarify sales, fee, and reporting requirements and include additional technical and clarifying updates. The January 1, 2020 effective date reflects the beginning of the next quarterly reporting and payment period. WAC 314-23-025 is repealed because the provisions of the rule expired March 31, 2013.

**Citation of rules affected by this order:**

New:

Repealed: WAC 314-23-025 Collection of shortfall of spirits distributor license fees from spirits distributor license holders

Amended:

- WAC 314-02-106 What is a spirits retailer license?
- WAC 314-23-001 What does a spirits distributor license allow?
- WAC 314-23-005 What are the fees for a spirits distributor license?
- WAC 314-23-021 What are the monthly reporting and payment requirements for a spirits distributor license?
- WAC 314-23-022 What if a distributor licensee fails to report or pay, or reports or pays late?
- WAC 314-23-030 What does a spirits certificate of approval license allow?
- WAC 314-23-041 What are the monthly reporting requirements for a spirits certificate of approval licensee?
- WAC 314-23-042 What if a spirits certificate of approval licensee fails to report or reports late?
- WAC 314-28-070 Monthly reporting and payment requirements for a distiller and craft distiller.

Suspended:

**Statutory authority for adoption:** Chapter 66.24 RCW, RCW 66.08.030

**Other authority:** Court of Appeals Decision: Washington Restaurant Association, et.al., v. WSLCB, 200 Wn.App. 119, 401 P.3d 428 (2017)

**PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)**

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 19-16-159 on August 7, 2019 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

- Name:
- Address:
- Phone:
- Fax:
- TTY:
- Email:
- Web site:

Other:

**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	9	Repealed	<u>1</u>
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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	9	Repealed	<u>1</u>

**Date Adopted:** October 2, 2019

**Name:** Jane Rushford

**Title:** Chair

**Signature:**



**WAC 314-02-106 What is a spirits retailer license?** (1) (~~A spirits retailer licensee may not sell spirits under this license until June 1, 2012. A spirits retailer is a retail license.~~) The holder of a spirits retailer license is allowed to:

(a) Sell spirits in original containers to consumers for off-premises consumption;

(b) Sell spirits in original containers to permit holders (see chapter 66.20 RCW);

(c) Sell spirits in original containers to on-premises liquor retailers, for resale at their licensed premises, although no single sale may exceed twenty-four liters; and

(d) Export spirits in original containers.

(2) A spirits retailer licensee that intends to sell to another retailer must possess a basic permit under the Federal Alcohol Administration Act. This permit must provide for purchasing distilled spirits for resale at wholesale. A copy of the federal basic permit must be submitted to the board. A federal basic permit is required for each location from which the spirits retailer licensee plans to sell to another retailer.

(3) A sale by a spirits retailer licensee is a retail sale only if not for resale to an on-premises spirits retailer. On-premises retail licensees that purchase spirits from a spirits retail licensee must abide by RCW 66.24.630.

(4) A spirits retail licensee must pay to the board seventeen percent of all spirits sales. (~~The first payment is due to the board October 1, 2012, for sales from June 1, 2012, to June 30, 2012 (see WAC 314-02-109 for quarterly reporting requirements).~~)

~~Reporting of spirits sales and payment of fees must be submitted on forms provided by the board.)~~

(5) Per RCW 66.24.055, a spirits retail licensee selling for resale must pay to the board a ten percent distributor license fee for the first twenty-seven months of licensure, and a five percent distributor license fee for month twenty-eight and each month thereafter. The fee is required on sales of spirits which the licensee selling to another licensee for resale is the first to have received:

(a) Spirits manufactured in the state, from the distiller; or

(b) Spirits manufactured outside of the state from an authorized out-of-state supplier; and

(c) No other distributor license fee has been paid.

(6) Reporting of spirits sales and payment of fees must be submitted electronically or on forms provided by the board. Reporting requirements are outlined in WAC 314-02-109.

(7) A spirits retail licensee may apply for a spirits sampling endorsement to conduct spirits sampling if they meet the following criteria:

(a) Be a participant in the responsible vendor program;

(b) Advertising:

(i) For spirits retail licensees that also hold a grocery store license, 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;

(ii) For spirits retail licensees that also hold a beer/wine specialty store license, advertising of spirits sampling may be advertised but not state that sampling is free of charge.

(c) Spirits samplings are to be conducted in the following manner:

(i) Spirits samplings service area and facilities must be located within the licensees' fully enclosed retail area and must be of a size and design that the licensee can observe and control persons in the area.

(ii) The licensee must provide a sketch of the sampling area. Fixed or (~~moveable~~) movable barriers are required around the sampling area to ensure that persons under twenty-one years of age and apparently intoxicated persons cannot possess or consume alcohol. The sketch is to be included with the application for the spirits sampling endorsement.

(iii) 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. Spirits samples may be altered with mixers, water, and/or ice.

(iv) The licensee must have food available for the sampling participants.

(v) Customers must remain in the service area while consuming samples.

(vi) All employees serving spirits during sampling events must hold a class 12 server permit.

(vii) There must be at least two employees on duty when conducting spirits sampling events.

(viii) Spirits sampling activities are subject to RCW 66.28.305 and 66.28.040.

(d) 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 sampling must be included.

(~~(+6)~~) (8) The annual fee for a spirits retail license is one hundred sixty-six dollars.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 12-12-065, filed 6/5/12, effective 7/6/12)

**WAC 314-23-001 What does a spirits distributor license allow?**

(1) (~~(A spirits distributor licensee may not commence sales until March 1, 2012.)~~) A spirits distributor licensee is allowed to:

(a) Sell spirits purchased from manufacturers, distillers, importers, or spirits certificate of approval holders;

(b) Sell spirits to any liquor licensee allowed to sell spirits;

(c) Sell spirits to other spirits distributors; (~~and~~)

(d) Sell spirits to bona fide full-time employees per RCW 66.28.185 under the following conditions:

(i) No spirits may be sold unless they are in such condition that they cannot reasonably be sold in the normal course of business, such as damage to the label on an individual bottle;

(ii) No spirits may be sold for less than the spirits distributor licensee's cost of acquisition; and

(iii) No spirits may be sold to a person who has been employed by the spirits distributor licensee for less than ninety days at the time of the sale or who is under the age of twenty-one.

(e) Export spirits from the state of Washington.

(2) The price of spirits sold to retailers may not be below acquisition cost.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 12-12-065, filed 6/5/12, effective 7/6/12)

**WAC 314-23-005 What are the fees for a spirits distributor license?**

(1) The holder of a spirits distributor license must pay to the board a monthly license fee (~~(as follows)~~). The license fee is:

(a) Ten percent of the total revenue from all sales of spirits to employees and retail licensees made during the month for which the fee is due for the first (~~(two years)~~) twenty-seven months of licensure; (~~and~~) or

(b) Five percent of the total revenue from all sales of spirits to employees and retail licensees made during the month for which the fee is due for the (~~(third year)~~) twenty-eighth month of licensure and (~~(every year)~~) each month thereafter(~~(-)~~); and

(c) (~~(The license fee is only calculated)~~) Required on sales of (~~(items)~~) spirits which the licensee was the first spirits distributor in the state to have received:

(i) (~~(In the case of)~~) Spirits manufactured in the state, from the distiller; or

(ii) (~~(In the case of)~~) Spirits manufactured outside of the state, from (~~(a spirits certificate of approval holder.~~ ~~(d-))~~) an authorized out-of-state supplier.

(2) For sales to employees under RCW 66.28.185 and 66.24.630, the holder of a spirits distributor license must pay a license fee of seventeen percent of the total revenue from sales of spirits to employees made during the month for which the fee is due.

(3) Reporting of sales and payment of fees must be submitted electronically or on forms provided by the board.

~~((2))~~ (4) The annual fee for a spirits distributor license is one thousand three hundred twenty dollars for each licensed location.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 12-12-065, filed 6/5/12, effective 7/6/12)

**WAC 314-23-021 What are the monthly reporting and payment requirements for a spirits distributor license?** (1) A spirits distributor must submit monthly sales reports and payments to the board.

(2) The required monthly sales reports must be:

(a) Filed electronically or on a form furnished by the board;

(b) Filed every month, including months with no activity or payment due;

(c) Submitted, with any payment due(~~(7)~~) to the board on or before the twentieth day of each month(~~(7)~~) for the previous month(~~(-)~~) (for example, a report listing transactions for the month of January is due by February 20th(~~(-)~~). When the twentieth 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.

(3) Electronic payments will be considered received on the date they post in the WSLCB receiving account.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-12-101, filed 6/4/14, effective 7/5/14)

**WAC 314-23-022 What if a distributor licensee fails to report or pay, or reports or pays late?** (1) Failure of a spirits distributor licensee to submit (~~its~~) monthly reports and payment to the board as required in WAC 314-23-021(1) will be sufficient grounds for the board to suspend or revoke the liquor license.

(2) A penalty of two percent per month will be assessed on any payments postmarked or posted in the WSLCB receiving account if paying electronically after the twentieth day of the month following the month of sale. When the twentieth day of the month falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, the (~~filing~~) report and payment must be postmarked (~~by the U.S. Postal Service~~) or posted in the WSLCB receiving account if paying electronically no later than the next postal business day.

Absent a postmark, and if not paying electronically, the date received at the (~~Washington state liquor control board, or designee,~~) WSLCB will be used to determine if penalties are to be assessed.

(3) Electronic payments will be considered received on the date they post in the WSLCB receiving account.

**WAC 314-23-030 What does a spirits certificate of approval license allow?** (1) (~~(A spirits certificate of approval licensee may not commence sales until March 1, 2012.)~~) A spirits certificate of approval license may be issued to spirits manufacturers located outside of the state of Washington but within the United States.

(2) There are three separate spirits certificate of approval licenses as follows:

(a) A holder of a spirits certificate of approval may act as a distributor of spirits they are entitled to import into the state by selling directly to spirits distributors or spirits importers licensed in Washington state. The fee for a certificate of approval is two hundred dollars per year.

(b) A holder of an authorized representative out-of-state spirits importer or brand owner for spirits produced in the United States but outside of Washington state may obtain a spirits authorized representative domestic certificate of approval license which entitles the holder to import spirits into the state by selling directly to spirits distributors, or spirits importers licensed in Washington state. The fee for an authorized representative certificate of approval for spirits is two hundred dollars per year.

(c) A holder of an authorized representative out-of-state spirits importer or brand owner for spirits produced outside of the United States obtains a spirits authorized representative foreign certificate of approval which entitles the holder to import spirits into the state by selling directly to spirits distributors, or spirits importers licensed in Washington state. The fee for an authorized representative certificate of approval for foreign spirits is two hundred dollars per year.

(3) A spirits certificate of approval holder, a spirits authorized representative domestic certificate of approval holder, and/or a spirits authorized representative foreign certificate of approval holder must obtain an endorsement to the certificate of approval that allows the shipment of spirits the holder is entitled to import into the state directly to licensed liquor retailers. The fee for this endorsement is one hundred dollars per year and is in addition to the fee for the certificate of approval license.

(4) The holder of a certificate of approval license that sells directly to licensed liquor retailers must

~~(a))~~ report to the board monthly, electronically or on forms provided by the board, the amount of all sales of spirits to licensed spirits retailers

~~(b) Pay to the board a fee of ten percent of the total revenue from all sales of spirits to retail licensees made during the month for which the fee is due for the first two years of licensure.~~

~~(c) Pay to the board five percent of the total revenue from all sales of spirits to retail licensees made during the month for which the fee is due for the third year of licensure and every year thereafter) and spirits distributors.~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 12-12-065, filed 6/5/12, effective 7/6/12)

**WAC 314-23-041 What are the monthly reporting ((and payment)) requirements for a spirits certificate of approval licensee?** (1) A spirits certificate of approval licensee must submit monthly reports ((and payments)) to the board.

(2) The required monthly reports must be:

(a) Filed electronically or on a form furnished by the board;

(b) Filed every month, including months with no activity ((or payment due));

(c) Submitted((, with payment due, to the board)) on or before the twentieth day of each month, for the previous month((-)) (for example, a report listing transactions for the month of January is due by February 20th((-)). When the twentieth 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.

(3) Absent a postmark, the date received at the WSLCB will be used to determine timeliness.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-12-101, filed 6/4/14, effective 7/5/14)

**WAC 314-23-042 What if a spirits certificate of approval licensee fails to report ((or pay,)) or reports ((or pays)) late?** ((-1)- If a spirits certificate of approval licensee does not submit its monthly reports and payment to the board as required by this subsection (1), the licensee is subject to penalties.

(2) A penalty of two percent per month will be assessed on any payments postmarked after the twentieth day of the month following the month of sale. When the twentieth 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 control board, or designee, will be used to determine if penalties are to be assessed.) The board may revoke or suspend a certificate of approval license for failure to submit monthly reports or for submitting reports after the monthly due date.

#### REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 314-23-025            Collection of shortfall of spirits distributor license fees from spirits distributor license holders.



**WAC 314-28-070** (~~(What are the)~~) **Monthly reporting and payment requirements for a (~~distillery~~) distiller and craft (~~distillery license~~) distiller.**

(1) A distiller or craft distiller must submit monthly production and sales reports and payment(~~s~~) to the board.

(2) The required monthly reports must be:

(a) Filed electronically or mailed on a form furnished by the board;

(b) Filed every month, including months with no activity or payment due;

(c) Submitted(~~r~~) with any payment due(~~r~~) to the board on or before the twentieth day of each month(~~r~~) for the previous month(~~r~~) (for example, a report listing transactions for the month of January is due by February 20th).(~~r~~) When the twentieth day of the month falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, the (~~fil-~~ing) report and payment must be submitted electronically or 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))~~ (3) For reporting purposes, production is the distillation of spirits from mash, wort, wash, or any other distilling material. After the production process is (~~completed~~) complete, a production gauge (~~shall~~) must be made to establish the quantity and proof of the spirits produced. (~~The~~) Designation (~~as to~~) of the kind of spirits (~~shall also~~) must be made at the time of the production gauge. The distiller must maintain a record of the production gauge (~~shall be maintained by the distiller~~). The (~~completion of the~~) production process is complete when the product is packaged for distribution. Production quantities are reportable within thirty days of the completion of the production process.

~~((3) A distillery or craft distillery must pay ten percent of their gross spirits revenue to the board on sales to a licensee allowed to sell spirits for on- or off-premises consumption during the first twenty-seven months of licensure and five percent of their gross spirits revenues to the board in the twenty-eighth month and thereafter.~~

~~(a) A distillery)~~ (4) A distiller must pay seventeen percent of their gross spirits revenue to the board on sales to customers for off-premises consumption.

~~((b))~~ (a) Payments must be submitted(~~r~~) with the monthly reports(~~r to the board~~) on or before the twentieth day of each month(~~r~~) for the previous month(~~r~~) (for example, payment for a report listing transactions for the month of January is due by February 20th).(~~r~~) When the twentieth day of the month falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, payment must be made or postmarked by the U.S. postal service no later than the next postal business day.

(b) Electronic payments will be considered received on the date they post in the WSLCB receiving account.