

Spirit Manufacturer (LMS) Quick Reference Guide Rev. 7/25

Legal Hours of Alcohol Sales

- **Monday through Saturday:** Alcohol sales allowed 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** Alcohol sales allowed 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 pm.
- **Holidays:** No sales allowed on Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Day. (Alcohol may be sold on the Monday following any Christmas or New Year's Day that falls on a Sunday.)
- *Local town/city rules may be more restrictive; check with your town hall*

Permit Requirements

- **Yearly renewal:** You must renew your permit every year. A reminder email will be sent to your email address on file. The expiration date is printed on your permit.
- **Permit framed and hung:** Place your permit in a frame and hang in your premises in a place visible to the public.
- **Permittee's name:** Your permittee's name must be displayed on a sign and hung next to the main entrance in a place visible from sidewalk or street.
- **Records needed on premises:** A 2-year record of all sales need to be kept at your premises. You may ask for permission to keep elsewhere.
- **Alcohol storage:** An approved lockable area must be kept that is large enough to store alcohol stock.
- **Employee age:** An employee must be at least 18 years old to work at premises and to sell or serve alcohol.
- **Age statement forms:** Required to be kept on premises at all times; utilize when a person's age is in question.

Spirit Manufacturer Specific Rules

- **Wholesaling:** You may wholesale what you manufacture to a retail permittee (provided you sell less than 10,000 proof gallons/year). You may also appoint a wholesaler to sell your product.
- **Registration and price posting:** All wholesaled brands must be registered and prices posted with Liquor Control.
- **Retail sales:** You may sell spirits you manufacture at retail to go (provided you sell less than 50,000 proof gallons). Limited to 3 liters per person per day; 5 gallons per person per month. No on-premises consumption (require a, craft café, café or restaurant permit for on-premises consumption).
- **Tastings:** Up to 2 oz. total per person per day, straight or mixed in cocktails. No additional samples if served in cocktails. No tastings before 10:00 a.m. (except Sunday, which is 11:00 a.m.) or after 8:00 p.m.
- **Alternating proprietorship and contract manufacturing:** Allowed in CT subject to specific rules. Contact Liquor Control for help.
- **Donations:** May donate product to holder of a temporary noncommercial entity permit only. Report all donations through eLicense portal.
- **Proof Gallons/Tax Reports:** Maintain required federal and state records for tax purposes. Calculate proof gallon: (1) multiply US gallons by percent of alcohol by volume; (2) double it; (3) divide by 100.
- **Delivery:** May ship out of state if allowed by other state.
- **Drinks to go:** May sell securely sealed containers of alcohol to go *with food prepared on the premises* during normal hours. Does not need to be in manufacturer's original container, but cannot use a lidded cup with sipping holes or straw holes. Beverage must be put in bag by employee. Limits: 1L of spirits. You must follow all local ordinances. Does not impact general off-premises retail sales.

Common Violations

- **Sales to minors:** You may not sell to or serve anyone under 21 years of age (unless with parent, guardian, or spouse). *No minor may sit or stand at a bar unless with a parent, guardian, or spouse. You have the right to refuse a sale to a suspected minor.*
- **Sales to intoxicated person:** You may not sell to or serve to anyone showing signs of intoxication. *You have the right to refuse someone who is intoxicated.*
- **Hours:** You may only sell alcohol during the hours allowed by your permit; all alcohol must be cleared by stated hour.
- **Smoking:** Smoking of all kinds is prohibited on your premises, including all electronic systems (cigarettes, cigars, vapes, pipes, hookahs, cigarillos, etc.).
- **Gambling:** No gambling on games of chance is allowed on the premises unless allowed by CT Lottery and licensed by DCP Gaming Division. Example: no dice games, sports pools, or slot machines.

Other Permits Allowed

- **Farmer's Market Permit:** You may conduct retail sales of sealed spirits you've manufactured at farmer's markets. You must be invited to the farmer's market and limited to 10 locations a year. No tastings at Farmer's Markets.
- **Craft Café Permit:** You may hold at your main premises or an alternate location. It allows you to serve Connecticut-made wine and beer.
- **Restaurant Permit:** You may hold at your main premises or an alternate location if you have the menu, dining space, and seating required for the permit. Allows a full bar.
- **Festival Permit:** You may attend a festival at the invitation of the holder of a festival permit holder. Allowed to conduct free or paid tastings, sell at retail for consumption at the festival, and sell at retail to go.
- **Shipper Permit:** You may apply to ship from out-of-state manufacturing plants to yourself.

Update Your Information

- **Your email:** It is your responsibility to update contact information with DCP, especially email address and telephone number. We send renewals and permits via email.
- **E-License account:** Set up your eLicense account with the username provided to you by the Department. You will use your eLicense account to renew your permit, cancel your permit, update contact information, submit forms, and request changes to your permit.
- **Permittee changes:** You may assign a new permittee; requires a short application.
- **Ownership changes:** Any change in ownership or stock must be reported to DCP. You cannot transfer your permit to a new owner. New business owners need their own permit.

Alcohol Beverage Rules

- **Drinking games:** No games that involve drinking or alcohol as prizes.
- **Bottomless:** "Bottomless mimosa", "all you can drink happy hour," etc. are prohibited.
- **Discrimination:** Promotions must apply to all patrons. "Ladies nights", etc. are prohibited if deal is based on age, gender, sexual orientation, or other protected classifications.

Contact Liquor Control:

www.ct.gov/dcp/liquorcontrol ♦ dcp.liquorcontrol@ct.gov ♦ 860-713-6200

(This guide for general reference only; not a full description of all obligations; see Liquor Control Act and corresponding regulations)