



Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs  
**MICHIGAN LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION (MLCC)**

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Lansing, Michigan 48909-7505

## **Manufacturer & Wholesalers Section License & Permit Types**

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**Brewer** - License issued by the Commission to manufacture an unlimited quantity of beer. The Brewer must be located in Michigan, although they may have other brewing facilities located outside of this state. A Brewer may obtain additional Brewer or other manufacturing licenses for facilities located in Michigan. Michigan statute prohibits a Brewer from holding any interest in a retail or wholesale license. A brewer may hold interest in another licensed entity in the supplier tier under the provisions of MCL 436.1603(8). Brewers may sell beer they produce to licensed wholesalers who may resell the beer to licensed retailers. Brewers may **not** sell beer directly to licensed retailers. Brewers may sell their beer to consumers for on-premises sales and consumption at not more than two of the brewers licensed locations in Michigan. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local governing body approval. Annual license fee is \$50.00 for brewers producing less than 15,000 barrels per year; \$50.00 plus \$50.00 for each 1,000 barrels production over 15,000 barrels per year up to a maximum annual fee of \$1,000.00. Annual license fee is based on previous year's production.

**Micro Brewer** - License issued by the Commission to manufacture up to 60,000 barrels of beer annually. A Micro Brewer must be located in Michigan, although they may have other brewing facilities located outside of this state. A micro brewer may obtain additional micro brewer or other manufacturing licenses for facilities located in Michigan. Total combined production of all locations may not exceed 60,000 barrels per year. Michigan statute prohibits a micro brewer from holding any interest in a retail or wholesale license. A micro brewer may hold interest in another licensed entity in the supplier tier under the provisions of MCL 436.1603(8). Micro Brewers may sell beer they manufacture to licensed wholesalers who may resell the beer to licensed retailers. Micro Brewers may **not** sell beer directly to licensed retailers unless they meet the definition of a "qualified micro brewer" who produces less than 1,000 barrels of beer per year. A micro brewer that self-distributes to retail licensees must file a schedule of net cash prices to retailers with the Commission, must have employees deliver the beer, must obtain a decal from the Commission for all vehicles used in making deliveries, and cannot deliver beer in a sales territory that the qualified micro brewer granted to a wholesaler. Micro Brewers may sell beer to consumers at their brewery for either on-premises consumption or for take-out with no additional license. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local governing body approval. Annual license fee is \$50.00 for brewers producing less than 15,000 barrels per year; \$50.00 plus \$50.00 for each 1,000 barrels production over 15,000 barrels per year up to a maximum annual fee of \$800.00. Annual license fee is based on previous year's production.

**Brewpub** - License issued by the Commission to manufacture up to 18,000 barrels of beer annually. A Brewpub must also hold an on-premises license (Class C, Tavern, A-Hotel, B-Hotel or Resort) issued by the Commission. A Brewpub must operate a full service restaurant with at least 25% gross sales from non-alcoholic items. Brewpubs may sell beer they manufacture to consumers only for either on-premises consumption or for take-out. Brewpubs may **not** sell beer they manufacture to wholesalers or retailers. A person may have interest in up to five Brewpubs with the total combined production of all locations not to exceed 18,000 barrels per year. Brewpubs may not hold interest in any license in the "supplier" or "wholesale" licensing tier. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local governing body approval. Annual license fee is \$100.00.

**Wine Maker** - License issued by the Commission to manufacture an unlimited quantity of wine in Michigan. A Wine Maker may obtain additional winery or other manufacturing licenses for facilities located in Michigan. Wine Makers may sell wine they manufacture to licensed wholesalers, licensed retailers or directly to consumers for take-out. Wine Makers may offer free samples or may include a charge for samples to consumers from the winery premises. Wine Makers may also sell wine they manufacture to consumers for on-premise consumption in a restaurant operated at the winery manufacturing premises. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local governing body approval. Annual license fee is \$100.00.

**Small Wine Maker** - License issued by the Commission to manufacture up to 50,000 gallons of wine annually. A Small Wine Maker may obtain additional small wine maker or other manufacturing licenses for facilities located in Michigan. Total combined production of all locations may not exceed 50,000 gallons per year. Small Wine Makers may sell wine to licensed wholesalers, licensed retailers or directly to consumers for take-out. Small Wine Makers may also sell wine to consumers for on-premises consumption from a restaurant operated at the winery manufacturing premises. Small Wine Makers may offer free samples or may include a charge for samples to consumers from the winery premises. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local governing body approval. Annual license fee is \$25.00.

**Winery Tasting Room** - License issued by the Commission to a wine maker or small wine maker to operate an off-site winery tasting room located away from the winery premises. The winery tasting room must be under the control of the licensed wine maker or small wine maker and may not be operated in conjunction with any other retail licensee. The tasting room may offer free samples or may include a charge for samples to consumers of the wine produced by that wine maker or small wine maker. May sell wine to consumers for off-premise consumption only. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required. No local approval is required for this type of license. Annual license fee is \$100.00.

**Manufacturer of Brandy** - License issued by the Commission to manufacture brandy as defined by the Alcohol, Tobacco, Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB) regulations. A brandy manufacturer must be located in Michigan and must hold a Michigan wine maker or small wine maker license at the same location and in same legal entity. A brandy manufacturer may sell brandy it manufactures directly to consumers for take-out from the manufacturing premises. Sales to consumers for take-out must be for not less than the uniform price set by the Commission. A brandy manufacturer may sell brandy it manufactures to consumers for on-premises consumption from a restaurant operated at the brandy manufacturing premises. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local governing body approval. Annual license fee is \$100.00.

**Brandy Tasting Room** – License issued by the Commission to a manufacturer of brandy to operate an off-site tasting room located away from the licensed brandy premises. The brandy tasting room must be under the control of the licensed brandy manufacturer and may not be operated in conjunction with any other retail licensee. The tasting room may offer free samples to consumers of the brandy produced by that brandy manufacturer. May sell brandy to consumers for off-premise consumption only, for not less than the uniform price set by the Commission. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required. No local approval is required for this type of license. Annual license fee is \$100.00.

**Manufacturer of Mixed Spirit Drink** - License issued by the Commission to manufacture mixed spirit drinks, commonly known as spirit coolers, that are spirit based beverages containing 10% or less alcohol by volume. A manufacturer of mixed spirit drink must be located in Michigan. A manufacturer of mixed spirit drink may obtain additional manufacturer of mixed spirit drink or other manufacturing licenses for facilities located in Michigan. A manufacturer of mixed spirit drink may sell mixed spirit

drinks to licensed Michigan Wholesalers who may resell to licensed Michigan retailers who hold a SDD. A mixed spirit drink manufacturer may not sell directly to retailers or consumers. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required. Annual license fee is \$100.00.

**Manufacturer of Spirits** - License issued by the Commission to manufacture spirits. The manufacturer of spirits must be located in Michigan. A manufacturer of spirits may obtain additional manufacturer of spirits or other manufacturing licenses for facilities located in Michigan. All spirit products are sold to the Commission by a vendor of spirits. A manufacturer of spirits may act as the vendor of spirits or may appoint someone to be their vendor of spirits. The Commission acts as the wholesaler of spirits and resells to Michigan retail licensees. A manufacturer of spirits may offer free samples to consumers at their manufacturing facility but may not sell spirits to consumers for either on-premises consumption or for take-out. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local governing body approval. Annual license fee is \$1,000.00.

**Small Distiller** – License issued by the Commission to manufacture spirits, also includes the manufacture of Brandy. Can not exceed 60,000 gallons annually of all brands combined. A small distiller must be located in Michigan. A small distiller may obtain additional small distiller or other manufacturing licenses for facilities located in Michigan. May offer free samples to consumers at the manufacturing premises. May sell spirits to consumers at the manufacturing premises for either on-premises consumption or take-out for not less than the uniform price set by the Commission. Can **not** sell directly to any retail licensee. May sell spirit products to the Liquor Control Commission to be sold through the spirit distribution system. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local governing body approval. Annual license fee is \$100.00.

**Spirit Tasting Room** – License issued by the Commission to a small distiller to operate an off-site tasting room located away from the licensed small distiller premises. The spirit tasting room must be under the control of the licensed small distiller and may not be operated in conjunction with any other retail licensee. The tasting room may offer free samples to consumers of the spirits produced by that small distiller. May sell spirit products to consumers for off-premise consumption only, for not less than the uniform price set by the Commission. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required. No local approval is required for this type of license. Annual license fee is \$100.00.

**Outstate Seller of Beer** (“OSSB”) - License issued by the Commission to ship beer into Michigan and sell to licensed Michigan Wholesalers who may resell to licensed Michigan retailers. OSSB must be located in the United States and may not sell or ship beer directly to Michigan retail licensees or directly to consumers. An OSSB can not hold interest in any wholesale or retail license. In addition to the OSSB they may obtain any other license in the supplier tier. The Commission may issue an OSSB license to an importer of foreign beer; to a domestic manufacturer of beer located outside of Michigan; or to a person appointed by a domestic manufacturer as the Exclusive Sales Agent (“ESA”) for the State of Michigan. There is a 5,000-barrel annual limit per brewery for an ESA. If the facility is located in Michigan, a full investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required. No local approval is required for this type of license. Annual license fee is \$1,000.00.

**Outstate Seller of Wine** (“OSSW”) - License issued by the Commission to ship wine into Michigan and sell to licensed Michigan Wholesalers who may resell to Michigan licensed retailers. OSSW must be located in the United States and may not sell or ship wine directly to Michigan retail licensees or directly to consumers. An OSSW can not hold interest in any wholesale or retail license. In addition to the OSSW they may obtain any other license in the supplier tier. The Commission may issue OSSW license to an importer of foreign wine; to a domestic manufacturer of wine; to a Purchaser of a domestic manufacturer of wine (150,000 liter annual limit per winery); or to an Exclusive Sales Agent

for the entire United States for a domestic manufacturer of wine. If facility is located in Michigan, a full investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required. No local approval is required for this type of license. Annual license fee is \$300.00.

**Direct Shipper** – License issued by the Commission required for in-state and out-of-state wineries to ship domestic wine directly to Michigan consumers. You must be the manufacturer of the wine to be eligible for this license. A Direct Shipper cannot directly ship more than 1,500 (9 liter cases) or 13,500 liters in total of wine in a calendar year to consumers located in Michigan. Direct shipment of imported wines is prohibited. The Direct Shipper is responsible for verifying that the person placing the order is at least 21 years of age through obtaining a copy of photo identification issued by the State of Michigan, another state or the federal government or by utilizing an identification verification service. No investigation is required for this type of license. No investigation required for this type of license. Annual license fee is \$100.00.

**Outstate Seller of Mixed Spirit Drink** (“OSSMS”) - License issued by the Commission to ship mixed spirit drinks, having an alcoholic content of 10% or less by volume, into Michigan and sell to licensed Michigan Wholesalers. OSSMS must be located in the United States and may not sell or ship mixed spirit drinks directly to Michigan retail licensees or Michigan consumers. An OSSMS can not hold interest in any wholesale or retail license. In addition to the OSSMS they may obtain any other license in the supplier tier. The Commission may issue an OSSMS license to the importer of foreign mixed spirit drink; a domestic manufacturer of mixed spirit drink; a Purchaser of a domestic manufacturer of mixed spirit drink (150,000 liter annual limit per winery); or an Exclusive Sales Agent for the entire United States for a domestic manufacturer of mixed spirit drinks. An OSSMS may sell mixed spirit drinks to licensed Michigan Wholesalers who may resell to licensed Michigan retailers who hold a SDD. If facility is located in Michigan, a full investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required. No local approval is required for this type of license. Annual license fee is \$300.00.

**Wholesaler** – License issued by the Commission to purchase beer, wine or mixed spirit drinks from licensed suppliers (Brewer, Micro Brewer, Wine Maker, Small Wine Maker, Outstate Seller of Beer, Wine or Mixed Spirit Drink) and resell to retail licensees. May also sell beer, wine and mixed spirit drinks to hospitals, military installations and the governments of Indian reservations, and may sell wine to churches for sacramental purposes. One year Michigan residency required for individuals, stockholders, members or partners of the wholesale licensed entity. Territory agreements are required from licensed suppliers. Wholesalers may only sell to retailers located in the territory authorized by their supplier territory agreements. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required. No local approval is required for this type of license. Annual license fee is \$300.00 plus \$50.00 for each additional vehicle used to deliver alcoholic beverages to retail licensees.

**Warehouser** – License issued by the Commission to store alcoholic beverages. May not sell or deliver to retail licensees unless warehouser also holds a wholesale or manufacturer license. May not sell or deliver to consumers. Retail licensees are prohibited from holding a Warehouser license. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required. No local approval is required for this type of license. Annual license fee is \$50.00.

**Industrial Manufacturer** – License issued by the Commission to purchase alcohol, normally 190 proof grain alcohol, and bulk alcoholic liquor for use in manufacturing products for non-beverage purposes. Must be located in Michigan. Issued to companies who manufacture products such as: flavoring extracts, herbal products, vinegar, perfumes, baked goods, etc. May purchase alcohol from the Commission or a licensed Seller of Alcohol. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required. No local approval is required for this type of license. Annual license fee is \$10.00.

**Limited Alcohol Buyer** – License issued by the Commission to purchase alcohol, normally 190 proof grain alcohol, for medicinal, mechanical, chemical or scientific purposes. Must be located in Michigan. Issued to hospitals & pharmacies that use alcohol in preparing medicines and to laboratories, chemical companies and a variety of other businesses that use alcohol for scientific experiments, sterilization, mechanical purposes etc. The Limited Alcohol Buyer license differs from an Industrial Manufacturer License use in that with the exception of medicines, the alcohol is not in the final product. May purchase alcohol directly from the Commission or from a licensed Seller of Alcohol. No investigation or local approval is required. Annual license fee is \$10.00.

**Seller of Alcohol** – License issued by the Commission to sell 190 proof grain alcohol or pure alcohol to licensed distillers, a manufacturer of wine for fortifying or blending purposes, Industrial Manufacturers and Limited Alcohol Buyers. Must be located in the United States. No investigation or local approval is required. Annual license fee is \$10.00.

**Salesperson** - License issued by the Commission to individuals who are employed by or represent a Vendor of Spirits, an alcoholic beverage supplier or a wholesaler, in the sale, delivery or promotion of alcoholic liquor. Salesmen, drivers, merchandisers, and any person who promotes alcoholic beverages on behalf of an alcoholic beverage supplier or wholesaler is required to hold a Salesperson license. A Salesperson license is not required for a person who works exclusively in the warehouse or office of a wholesaler or supplier. A Salesperson must be at least 18 years of age. A Salesperson may not be employed by a retail licensee on a paid or voluntary basis. License fee is \$35.00 for a three year period.

**Vendor Representative** - License issued by the Commission to an individual who represents a Vendor of Spirits with the Commission. Each Vendor of Spirits must have one and only one Vendor Representative. Other persons representing the Vendor of Spirits may obtain a Salesperson license to promote their products. A Vendor Representative must be at least 18 years of age. A Vendor Representative may not be employed by a retail licensee on a paid or voluntary basis. License fee is \$50.00 for a three year period.

**Broker** - License issued by the Commission to a company who is either employed by or represents an alcoholic beverage supplier or wholesaler in the sale, delivery or promotion of alcoholic liquor. Normally issued to brokers representing Vendors of Spirits or to a promotional agency that assists in the promotion of alcoholic liquor on behalf of a Vendor of Spirits, a supplier or a wholesaler. The broker or promotional company must obtain a separate Broker License for each company they are representing. Each individual working for the Broker is then required to obtain a Salesperson license to represent the Broker licensee. Each individual salesperson can then promote any product for which the broker has a license to represent. Wholesale licensees are not required to obtain a Broker license for each supplier they represent as their Wholesale license covers all suppliers they represent. License fee is \$35.00 for a three year period.

**Farmer's Market Permit** – permit for a qualified Small Wine Maker who manufactures or bottles not more than 5,000 gallons of wine in one calendar year combining all licensed locations, to conduct free wine tastings and sell, for consumption off the licensed premises, wine produced by that Small Wine Maker at a Farmer's Market. Permit fee is \$25.00 for each farmers market location.

**Hospital Permit** - Permit issued by the Commission to hospitals allowing them to purchase spirits from the Commission to be used for medicinal purposes, such as a doctor prescribing an alcoholic beverage drink to a patient. This permit is not the same as a Limited Alcohol Buyer license that is issued to purchase grain alcohol or pure alcohol to make medicines. There is no fee for a Hospital Permit.

**Military Permit** - Permit issued by the Commission to military installations allowing them to purchase spirits from the Commission. These locations must be located on military grounds such as Air Force Bases, Coast Guard Bases, National Guard Bases, etc. and allow the base to purchase spirits from the Commission for resale in their clubs or stores. There is no fee for a Military Permit.

**Indian Casino Permit** - Permit issued by the Commission to the governments of Indian Tribes who operate casinos on tribal territory, allowing them to purchase spirits from the Commission and resell to consumers. The Tribe must submit a copy of their Compact signed by the Governor and Secretary of Interior. This permit is available only to Indian Tribes who operate a casino approved through a Compact. There is no fee for an Indian Casino Permit.

**Vendor of Spirits** – Person selling spirits to the Commission. This is neither a license nor a permit. The Vendor of Spirits must register all products with the Commission, file price quotations, contract with an Authorized Distribution Agent to deliver their products and license an individual as their Vendor Representative.

**Authorized Distribution Agent (“ADA”)** - A Certification issued by the Commission to a company who acts as a delivery agent for spirit products. The ADA must have a written agreement with the Vendor of Spirits to deliver spirit products to retail licensees. The ADA takes orders, delivers spirit products and collects payment on behalf of the Commission. An ADA may be a wholesaler but may not have any interest in a retail license or be a Vendor of Spirits.