

Manufacturer & Wholesalers Section

License & Permit Types

Brewer - License issued by the Commission to manufacturer an unlimited quantity of beer. The Brewer must be located in Michigan, although they may have other brewing facilities located outside of Michigan. A Brewer may obtain additional Brewer licenses for other Michigan brewing facilities, provided that licenses are in the same legal entity. 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 whose annual production is less than 200,000 barrels may obtain a Specially Designated Merchant license to sell their beer to consumers for take-out from the brewery. Brewers may sell their beer to consumers for on-premises consumption at one, and only one, brewing facility in Michigan. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local law enforcement approval and 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 manufacturer up to 30,000 barrels of beer annually. Micro Brewer must be located in Michigan although they may have other brewing facilities located outside of Michigan. A Micro Brewer may obtain additional licenses for other Michigan brewing facilities, provided that all are licensed in the same legal entity. Total production of all licensed facilities may not exceed 30,000 barrels per year, including production at out-of-state facilities. 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. 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 law enforcement approval and 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 manufacturer up to 5,000 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 three Brewpubs with the total combined production of all locations not to exceed 5,000 barrels per year. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local law enforcement approval and local governing body approval. Annual license fee is \$100.00.

Wine Maker - License issued by the Commission to manufacturer an unlimited quantity of wine in Michigan. A Wine Maker may obtain additional licenses for other Michigan winery facilities, provided that all are licensed in the same legal entity. Wine Makers may sell wine they manufacture to licensed wholesalers, licensed retailers or directly to consumers for take-out. Wine Makers may also sell wine they manufacture to consumers for on-premise consumption in a restaurant operated at the winery premises. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local law enforcement approval and local governing body approval. Annual license fee is \$100.00.

Small Wine Maker - License issued by the Commission to manufacturer up to 50,000 gallons of wine per year in Michigan. A Small Wine Maker may obtain additional licenses for other Michigan winery facilities, provided that all are licensed in the same legal entity. If a Small Wine Maker licenses multiple locations, the combined production 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 premises. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local law enforcement approval and 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 to consumers and may sell wine to consumers for take-out. May **not** sell for on-premises consumption at tasting room location. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local law enforcement approval and local governing body approval. Annual license fee is \$100.00.

Manufacturer of Brandy - License issued by the Commission to manufacture brandy as defined by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms 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 manufacturers directly to consumers for take-out from the manufacturing premises. Sales to consumers for take-out must be at uniform prices set by the Commission. A Brandy Manufacturer may sell brandy it manufacturers to consumers for on-premises consumption in a restaurant operation at the manufacturing premises. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local law enforcement approval and local governing body approval. 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 sell mixed spirit drinks to licensed Michigan Wholesalers who may resell to certain licensed Michigan retailers. Only retailers authorized to sell spirits may purchase mixed spirit drinks from wholesalers. A Mixed Spirit Drink Manufacturer may not sell directly to retailers or consumers. An investigation by the Commission's Enforcement Division is required along with local law enforcement approval and local governing body approval. 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. 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 law enforcement approval and local governing body approval. Annual license fee is \$1,000.00.

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 may not sell or ship beer directly to Michigan retail licensees nor may they ship directly to consumers. OSSB must be located in the United States. 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 as well as local law enforcement approval. 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 may not sell or ship wine directly to Michigan retail licensees nor may they ship directly to consumers. OSSW must be located in the U.S. 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 as well as local law enforcement approval. Annual license fee is \$300.00.

Outstate Seller of Mixed Spirit Drink (“OSSMS@”) - License issued by the Commission to ship mixed spirit drinks, spirit coolers having alcoholic content of 10% or less by volume, into Michigan and sell to licensed Michigan Wholesalers. OSSMS may not sell or ship mixed spirit drinks directly to Michigan retailers nor may they ship directly to Michigan consumers. OSSMS must be located in the U.S. The Commission may issue 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 to licensed Michigan Wholesalers, who may resell to licensed Michigan retailers. Mixed spirit drinks may only be sold by retail licensees authorized to sell spirits. If facility is located in Michigan, a full investigation by the Commission’s Enforcement Division is required as well as local law enforcement approval. 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 wholesale licensed entity. Territory agreements 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 along with local law enforcement approval. 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 also holding a wholesaler 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 along with local law enforcement approval. 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. Located in Michigan. Issued to companies who manufacture products such as: flavoring extracts, herbal products, vinegar, perfumes, etc. May purchase alcohol from the Commission or a licensed Seller of Alcohol. An investigation by the Commission’s Enforcement Division is required along with local law enforcement approval. Annual license fee is \$10.00.

Limited Buyer of Alcohol – License issued by the Commission to purchase alcohol, 190 proof grain alcohol, for medicinal, mechanical, chemical or scientific purposes. 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, serialization, mechanical purposes etc. The Limited Buyer of Alcohol 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 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 alcoholic beverage manufacturers, Limited Alcohol Buyers or Industrial Manufacturers in this state. Must be located in the U.S. May sell to licensed Manufacturer of Spirits, Wine Maker or Small Wine Maker for fortifying or blending purposes and to Industrial Manufacturers and Limited Buyers of Alcohol. No investigation required. Local law enforcement 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 May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2011.

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 the 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 May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2011.

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 May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2011.

Hospital Permit - Permit issued by 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 Buyer of Alcohol that issued to Hospitals 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 under approved through a Compact. There is no fee for an Indian Casino Permit.

Vendor of Spirits - Company 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 nor may they be a Vendor of Spirits.