

Personal Importation of Alcoholic Beverages

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide clarification on the personal importation of alcoholic beverages into the state of Iowa.

DISCUSSION

The personal importation of alcoholic beverages into Iowa is limited in the beverage types, amounts, and uses once imported that are allowed.

What types of alcohol can be personally imported?

Only alcoholic liquor can be personally imported. Beer and wine cannot be personally imported. (IC § 123.22)

How much alcoholic liquor can be personally imported?

- Up to 1 liter of alcoholic liquor that is obtained within the United States;
- Up to 4 liters of alcoholic liquor personally obtained outside of the United States. (IC § 123.22)

Where can personally-imported alcoholic liquor be consumed?

- Alcoholic liquor that has been personally imported can only be consumed in a private home or other private accommodation. (IC § 123.22)
- Alcoholic liquor that has been personally imported cannot be brought onto a licensed premises and consumed. (IC § 123.22)
- Personally-imported alcoholic liquor cannot be resold or purchased from another individual. (IC §§ 123.22 and 123.59)

Are there any exceptions for returning military personnel?

No. All requirements outlined above also apply to returning military personnel.

VIOLATIONS

Licensees/Permittees

A licensee or permittee that is found to be in violation of Iowa laws or rules may be subject to administrative sanctions, including, but not limited to, civil penalty, license suspension, or license revocation. (IC § 123.39)

Non-Licensees/Permittees

Violations of any of the provisions outlined in this bulletin by a non-licensee or permittee could result in criminal penalties imposed by law enforcement officials. (IC §§ 123.90 and 123.91)

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions concerning this bulletin, please contact the Division's Education and Outreach Unit at education@iowaabd.com

The Alcoholic Beverages Division was created to administer and enforce the laws of Iowa concerning beer, wine and alcoholic liquor.

*This bulletin does not replace statutes, rules or court decisions.
This bulletin should not be considered legal advice or a substitute for legal counsel.*