



Special Class A Beer Permit (Brewpub)

Applicable to: Class B Beer permit and Class C Liquor license holders.

Allows for the manufacture of beer and high alcoholic content beer on the premises for on-premises consumption.

The following pages contain information related to your license. This is not an all-inclusive list of information that pertains to you.

For the complete Iowa Code Chapter 123 use this link:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/123.pdf>

For the complete 185 Iowa Administrative Rules use this link:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/agency/185.pdf>

Quick Links

General

[ABD Website](#)

Licensing

[eLAPS](#)

[Licensing Laws & Requirements](#)

[License Classifications](#)

[License/Permit Fees](#)

Education

[Mobile App](#)

[Bulletins](#)

[Red Book](#)

[I-PACT](#)

[I-PLEDGE](#)

[Legally Speaking](#)

Tobacco

[Tobacco](#)

123.122 Beer certificate, permit, or license required – exception for personal use.

1. A person shall not cause the manufacture, importation, or sale of beer in this state unless a certificate or permit as provided in this subchapter, or a liquor control license as provided in subchapter I of this chapter, is first obtained which authorizes that manufacture, importation, or sale.

2. Any person of legal age may manufacture beer for personal use without a class “A” beer permit, subject to the requirements of this subsection. Such beer may be consumed on the premises or removed from the premises where it was manufactured only if the beer is not sold, exchanged, bartered, dispensed, or given in consideration of purchase for any property or services or in evasion of the requirements of this chapter.

3. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person shall not import beer. However, an individual of legal age may import beer into the state without a certificate, permit, or license an amount of beer not to exceed four and one-half gallons per calendar month that the individual personally obtained outside the state or, in the case of beer personally obtained outside the United States, a quantity which does not exceed the amount allowed by federal law governing the importation of alcoholic beverages into the United States for personal consumption. Beer imported pursuant to this section shall be for personal consumption in a private home or other private accommodation and only if the beer is not sold, exchanged, bartered, dispensed, or given in consideration of purchase for any property or services or in evasion of the requirements of this chapter.

123.130 Authority under class “A” and special class “A” beer permits.

1. c. A class “A” or special class “A” beer permit does not grant authority to manufacture wine as defined in section 123.3, subsection 54.

4. All special class “A” premises shall be located within the state. A person who holds a special class “A” beer permit for the same location at which the person holds a class “C” liquor control license or class “B” beer permit for the purpose of operating as a brewpub may manufacture and sell beer to be consumed on the premises, may sell at retail at the manufacturing premises for consumption off the premises beer that is transferred at the time of sale to another container subject to the requirements of section 123.131, subsection 2, may sell beer to a class “A” beer permittee for resale purposes, and may sell beer to distributors outside of the state that are authorized by the laws of that jurisdiction to sell beer at wholesale. The permit issued to holders of a special class “A” beer permit shall clearly state on its face that the permit is limited.

5. A manufacturer of beer issued a class “A” or special class “A” beer permit shall file

with the division, on or before the fifteenth day of each calendar month, all documents filed with the alcohol and tobacco tax and trade bureau of the United States department of the treasury, including all brewer's operation and excise tax return reports.

123.135 Brewer's certificate of compliance – civil penalty.

1. A manufacturer, brewer, bottler, importer, or vendor of beer, or any agent thereof, desiring to ship or sell beer, or have beer brought into this state for resale by a class "A" beer permittee, shall first make application for and be issued a brewer's certificate of compliance by the administrator for that purpose. The certificate of compliance expires at the end of one year from the date of issuance and shall be renewed for a like period upon application to the administrator unless otherwise revoked for cause. Each completed application for a certificate of compliance or renewal of a certificate shall be submitted electronically, or in a manner prescribed by the administrator, and shall be accompanied by a fee of five hundred dollars payable to the division. Each holder of a certificate of compliance shall furnish the information in a manner the administrator requires.

2. At the time of applying for a certificate of compliance, each applicant shall file with the division a list of all class "A" beer permittees with whom it intends to do business and shall designate the geographic area in which its products are to be distributed by such permittee. The listing of class "A" beer permittees and geographic area as filed with the division shall be amended by the holder of a certificate of compliance as necessary to keep the listing current with the division.

3. All class "A" beer permit holders shall sell only those brands of beer which are manufactured, brewed, bottled, shipped, or imported by a person holding a current certificate of compliance. Any employee or agent working for or representing the holder of a certificate of compliance within this state shall submit electronically, or in a manner prescribed by the administrator, the employee's or agent's name and address with the division.

4. It shall be unlawful for any holder of a certificate of compliance or the holder's agent, or any class "A" beer permit holder or the beer permit holder's agent, to grant to any retail beer permit holder, directly or indirectly, any rebates, free goods, or quantity discounts on beer which are not uniformly offered to all retail permittees.

5. Any violation of the requirements of this chapter or the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter shall subject the holder of a brewer's certificate of compliance or a class "A" beer permit holder to the general penalties provided in this chapter and shall constitute

grounds for imposition of a civil penalty, suspension of the certificate or permit, or revocation of the certificate or permit after notice and opportunity for a hearing pursuant to section 123.39 and chapter 17A.

123.136 Barrel tax.

1. In addition to the annual permit fee to be paid by all class “A” beer permittees under this chapter there shall be levied and collected from the permittees on all beer manufactured for sale or sold in this state at wholesale and on all beer imported into this state for sale at wholesale and sold in this state at wholesale, and from special class “A” beer permittees on all beer manufactured for consumption on the premises and on all beer sold at retail at the manufacturing premises for consumption off the premises pursuant to section 123.130, subsection 4, a tax of five and eighty-nine hundredths dollars for every barrel containing thirty-one gallons, and at a like rate for any other quantity or for the fractional part of a barrel. However, no tax shall be levied or collected on beer shipped outside this state by a class “A” beer permittee or special class “A” beer permittee or on beer sold to a class “A” beer permittee by a special class “A” beer permittee or another class “A” beer permittee.

2. All revenue derived from the barrel tax shall accrue to the state general fund.

3. All of the provisions of this chapter relating to the administration of the barrel tax on beer shall apply to this section.

123.137 Report of barrel sales – penalty.

1. A person holding a class “A” or special class “A” beer permit shall, on or before the tenth day of each calendar month commencing on the tenth day of the calendar month following the month in which the person is issued a beer permit, make a report under oath to the division electronically, or in a manner prescribed by the administrator, showing the exact number of barrels of beer, or fractional parts of barrels, sold by the beer permit holder during the preceding calendar month. The report shall also state information the administrator requires, and beer permit holders shall at the time of filing a report pay to the division the amount of tax due at the rate fixed in section 123.136.

2. A penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax shall be added thereto if the report is not filed and the tax paid within the time required by this section.

123.138 Records required – keg identification sticker.

1. Each class “A” or special class “A” beer permittee shall keep proper records showing the amount of beer sold by the permittee, and these records shall be at all times open to inspection by the administrator and to other persons pursuant to section 123.30, subsection 1. Each class “B” beer permittee, class “C” beer permittee, or retail liquor control licensee shall keep proper records showing each purchase of beer made by the permittee or licensee, and the date and the amount of each purchase and the name of the person from whom each purchase was made, which records shall be open to inspection pursuant to section 123.30, subsection 1, during normal business hours of the permittee or licensee.

2. a. Each class “B”, “C”, or special class “C” liquor control licensee and class “B” or “C” beer permittee who sells beer for off-premises consumption shall affix to each keg of beer an identification sticker provided by the administrator. The sticker provided shall allow for its full removal when common external keg cleaning procedures are performed. For the purposes of this subsection, “keg” means all durable and disposable containers with a liquid capacity of five gallons or more. Each class “B”, “C”, or special class “C” liquor control licensee and class “B” or “C” beer permittee shall also keep a record of the identification sticker number of each keg of beer sold by the licensee or permittee with the name and address of the purchaser and the number of the purchaser’s driver’s license, nonoperator’s identification card, or military identification card, if the military identification card contains a picture and signature. This information shall be retained by the licensee or permittee for a minimum of ninety days. The records kept pursuant to this subsection shall be available for inspection by any law enforcement officer during normal business hours.

b. (1) The division shall provide the keg identification stickers described in paragraph “a” and shall, prior to utilizing a sticker, notify licensed brewers and licensed beer importers of the type of sticker to be utilized. Each sticker shall contain a number and the following statement:

It is unlawful to sell, give, or otherwise supply any alcoholic beverage, wine, or beer to any person under legal age. Any person who defaces this sticker shall be guilty of criminal mischief punishable pursuant to section 716.6 and shall cause the forfeiture of any deposit, if applicable.

(2) The identification sticker shall be placed on the keg at the time of retail sale. The licensee or permittee shall purchase the stickers referred to in this subsection from the

division and shall remit to the division deposits forfeited pursuant to this lettered paragraph due to defacement. The cost of the stickers to licensees and permittees shall not exceed the division's cost of producing and distributing the stickers. The moneys collected by the division relating to the sale of stickers and forfeited deposits shall be credited to the beer and liquor control fund.

c. The provisions of this subsection shall be implemented uniformly throughout the state. The provisions of this subsection shall preempt any local county or municipal ordinance regarding keg registration or the sale of beer in kegs. In addition, a county or municipality shall not adopt or continue in effect an ordinance regarding keg registration or the sale of beer in kegs.

d. The division shall establish by rule procedures relating to the forfeiture and remittance of deposits pursuant to paragraph "b".

123.139 Separate locations – class "A" or special class "A" beer permit.

A class "A" or special class "A" beer permittee having more than one place of business is required to have a separate beer permit for each separate place of business maintained by the permittee where beer is manufactured, stored, warehoused, or sold.

123.145 Labels on bottles, barrels, etc. – conclusive evidence.

The label on any bottle, keg, barrel, or other container in which beer is offered for sale in this state, representing the alcoholic content of such beer as being in excess of five percent by weight shall be conclusive evidence as to the alcoholic content of the beer contained therein.

123.2 General prohibition.

It is unlawful to manufacture for sale, sell, offer or keep for sale, possess, or transport alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer except upon the terms, conditions, limitations, and restrictions enumerated in this chapter.

123.3 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Administrator" means the administrator of the division, appointed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, or the administrator's designee.

2. “Air common carrier” means a person engaged in transporting passengers for hire in interstate or foreign commerce by aircraft and operating regularly scheduled flights under a certificate of public convenience issued by the civil aeronautics board.

3. “Alcohol” means the product of distillation of any fermented liquor rectified one or more times, whatever may be the origin thereof, and includes synthetic ethyl alcohol.

4. “Alcoholic beverage” means any beverage containing more than one-half of one percent of alcohol by volume including alcoholic liquor, wine, and beer.

5. “Alcoholic liquor” means the varieties of liquor defined in subsections 3 and 50 which contain more than six and twenty-five hundredths percent of alcohol by volume, beverages made as described in subsection 7 which beverages contain more than six and twenty-five hundredths percent of alcohol by volume but which are not wine as defined in subsection 54, high alcoholic content beer as defined in subsection 22, or canned cocktails as defined in subsection 11, and every other liquid or solid, patented or not, containing spirits and every beverage obtained by the process described in subsection 54 containing more than twenty-one and twenty-five hundredths percent of alcohol by volume, and susceptible of being consumed by a human being, for beverage purposes. Alcohol manufactured in this state for use as fuel pursuant to an experimental distilled spirits plant permit or its equivalent issued by the federal bureau of alcohol, tobacco and firearms is not an “alcoholic liquor”.

6. “Application” means a written request for the issuance of a permit, license, or certificate that is supported by a verified statement of facts and submitted electronically, or in a manner prescribed by the administrator.

7. “Beer” means any liquid capable of being used for beverage purposes made by the fermentation of an infusion in potable water of barley, malt, and hops, with or without unmalted grains or decorticated and degerminated grains or made by the fermentation of or by distillation of the fermented products of fruit, fruit extracts, or other agricultural products, containing more than one-half of one percent of alcohol by volume but not more than six and twenty-five hundredths percent of alcohol by volume.

8. “Brewer” means any person who manufactures beer for the purpose of sale, barter, exchange, or transportation.

9. “Brewpub” means a commercial establishment authorized to sell beer at retail for consumption on or off the premises that is operated by a person who holds a class “C” liquor control license or a class “B” beer permit and who also holds a special class “A” beer permit that authorizes the holder to manufacture and sell beer pursuant to this chapter.

10. “Broker” means a person who represents or promotes alcoholic liquor within the

state on behalf of the holder of a distiller's certificate of compliance, a manufacturer's license, or a class "A" native distilled spirits license. An employee of the holder of a distiller's certificate of compliance, a manufacturer's license, or a class "A" native distilled spirits license is not a broker.

11. "Canned cocktail" means a mixed drink or cocktail that is premixed and packaged in a metal can and contains more than six and twenty-five hundredths percent of alcohol by volume but not more than fifteen percent of alcohol by volume. A mixed drink or cocktail mixed and packaged in a metal can pursuant to section 123.49, subsection 2, paragraph "d", subparagraph (3), shall not be considered a canned cocktail.

12. "City" means a municipal corporation but not including a county, township, school district, or any special purpose district or authority.

13. "Club" means any nonprofit corporation or association of individuals, which is the owner, lessee, or occupant of a permanent building or part thereof, membership in which entails the prepayment of regular dues and is not operated for a profit other than such profits as would accrue to the entire membership.

14. "Commercial establishment" means a place of business which is at all times equipped with sufficient tables and seats to accommodate twenty-five persons at one time, and the licensed premises of which conform to the standards and specifications of the division.

15. "Commission" means the alcoholic beverages commission established by this chapter.

16. "Completed application" means an application where all necessary fees have been paid in full, any required bonds have been submitted, the applicant has provided all information requested by the division, and the application meets the requirements of section 123.92, subsection 2, if applicable.

17. "Designated security employee" means an agent, contract employee, independent contractor, servant, or employee of a licensee or permittee who works in a security position in any capacity at a commercial establishment licensed or permitted under this chapter.

18. "Distillery", "winery", and "brewery" mean not only the premises where alcohol or spirits are distilled, wine is fermented, or beer is brewed, but in addition mean a person owning, representing, or in charge of such premises and the operations conducted there, including the blending and bottling or other handling and preparation of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer in any form.

19. "Division" means the alcoholic beverages division of the department of commerce established by this chapter.

20. “Grape brandy” means brandy produced by the distillation of fermented grapes or grape juice.

21. “Grocery store” means any retail establishment, the business of which consists of the sale of food, food products, or beverages for consumption off the premises.

22. “High alcoholic content beer” means beer which contains more than six and twenty-five hundredths percent of alcohol by volume, but not more than fifteen percent of alcohol by volume, that is made by the fermentation of an infusion in potable water of barley, malt, and hops, with or without unmalted grains or decorticated and degerminated grains. Not more than one and five-tenths percent of the volume of a “high alcoholic content beer” may consist of alcohol derived from added flavors and other nonbeverage ingredients containing alcohol. The added flavors and other nonbeverage ingredients may not include added caffeine or other added stimulants including but not limited to guarana, ginseng, and taurine.

23. “Hotel” or “motel” means premises licensed by the department of inspections and appeals and regularly or seasonally kept open in a bona fide manner for the lodging of transient guests, and with twenty or more sleeping rooms.

24. “Import” means the transporting or ordering or arranging the transportation of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer into this state whether by a resident of this state or not.

25. “Importer” means the person who transports or orders, authorizes, or arranges the transportation of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer into this state whether the person is a resident of this state or not.

26. The terms “in accordance with the provisions of this chapter”, “pursuant to the provisions of this title”, or similar terms shall include all rules and regulations of the division adopted to aid in the administration or enforcement of those provisions.

27. “Institutional investor” means a person who maintains a diversified portfolio of investments through a state or federally chartered bank, a mutual fund, a retirement plan or account created by an employer, the person, or another individual to provide retirement benefits or deferred compensation to the person, a private investment firm, or a holding company publicly traded on the New York stock exchange, the American stock exchange, or NASDAQ stock market and who has a majority of investments in businesses other than businesses that manufacture, bottle, wholesale, or sell at retail alcoholic beverages.

28. “Legal age” means twenty-one years of age or more.

29. “Licensed premises” or “premises” means all rooms, enclosures, contiguous areas, or places susceptible of precise description satisfactory to the administrator where alcoholic beverages, wine, or beer is sold or consumed under authority of a liquor

control license, wine permit, or beer permit. A single licensed premises may consist of multiple rooms, enclosures, areas, or places if they are wholly within the confines of a single building or contiguous grounds.

30. “Local authority” means the city council of any incorporated city in this state, or the county board of supervisors of any county in this state, which is empowered by this chapter to approve or deny applications for retail beer or wine permits and liquor control licenses; empowered to recommend that such permits or licenses be granted and issued by the division; and empowered to take other actions reserved to them by this chapter.

31. “Manufacture” means to distill, rectify, ferment, brew, make, mix, concoct, or process any substance capable of producing a beverage containing more than one-half of one percent of alcohol by volume and includes blending, bottling, or the preparation for sale.

32. “Mixed drink or cocktail” means an alcoholic beverage, composed in whole or in part of alcoholic liquor, that is combined with other alcoholic beverages or nonalcoholic beverages or ingredients including but not limited to ice, water, soft drinks, or flavorings.

33. “Native brewery” means a business which manufactures beer or high alcoholic content beer and is operated by a person who holds a class “A” beer permit that authorizes the holder to manufacture and sell beer pursuant to this chapter.

34. “Native distilled spirits” means spirits fermented, distilled, or, for a period of two years, barrel matured on the licensed premises of the native distillery where fermented, distilled, or matured. “Native distilled spirits” also includes blended or mixed spirits comprised solely of spirits fermented, distilled, or, for a period of two years, barrel matured at a native distillery.

35. “Native distillery” means a business with an operating still which produces and manufactures native distilled spirits.

36. “Native wine” means wine manufactured pursuant to section 123.176 by a manufacturer of native wine.

37. “Package” means any container or receptacle used for holding alcoholic liquor.

38. “Permit” or “license” means an express written authorization issued by the division for the manufacture or sale, or both, of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer.

39. “Person” means any individual, association, or partnership, any corporation, limited liability company, or other similar legal entity, any club, hotel or motel, or any municipal corporation owning or operating a bona fide airport, marina, park, coliseum, auditorium, or recreational facility in or at which the sale of alcoholic liquor, wine, or

beer is only an incidental part of the ownership or operation.

40. "Person of good moral character" means any person who meets all of the following requirements:

a. The person has such financial standing and good reputation as will satisfy the administrator that the person will comply with this chapter and all laws, ordinances, and regulations applicable to the person's operations under this chapter. However, the administrator shall not require the person to post a bond to meet the requirements of this paragraph.

b. The person is not prohibited by section 123.40 from obtaining a liquor control license or a wine or beer permit.

c. Notwithstanding paragraph "e", the applicant is a citizen of the United States and a resident of this state, or licensed to do business in this state in the case of a corporation. Notwithstanding paragraph "e", in the case of a partnership, only one general partner need be a resident of this state.

d. The person has not been convicted of a felony. However, if the person's conviction of a felony occurred more than five years before the date of the application for a license or permit, and if the person's rights of citizenship have been restored by the governor, the administrator may determine that the person is of good moral character notwithstanding such conviction. e. The requirements of this subsection apply to the following:

(1) Each of the officers, directors, and partners of such person.

(2) A person who directly or indirectly owns or controls ten percent or more of any class of stock of such person.

(3) A person who directly or indirectly has an interest of ten percent or more in the ownership or profits of such person.

41. "Pharmacy" means a drug store in which drugs and medicines are exposed for sale and sold at retail, or in which prescriptions of licensed physicians and surgeons, dentists, prescribing psychologists, or veterinarians are compounded and sold by a registered pharmacist.

42. "Private place" means a location which, at the time alcoholic beverages are kept, dispensed, or consumed, meets all of the following criteria:

a. The general public does not have access to the location and attendees are limited to bona fide social hosts and invited guests.

b. The location is not of a commercial nature.

c. Goods or services are neither sold nor purchased at the location.

d. The location is not a licensed premises.

e. Admission fees or other kinds of entrance fees, fare, ticket, donation or charges are not made or are required of the invited guests to enter the location.

43. "Public place" means any place, building, or conveyance to which the public has or is permitted access.

44. "Residence" means the place where a person resides, permanently or temporarily.

45. "Retail beer permit" means a class "B" or class "C" beer permit issued under the provisions of this chapter.

46. "Retail wine permit" means a class "B" wine permit, class "B" native wine permit, or class "C" native wine permit issued under this chapter.

47. "Retailer" means any person who shall sell, barter, exchange, offer for sale, or have in possession with intent to sell any alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer for consumption either on or off the premises where sold.

48. The prohibited "sale" of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer under this chapter includes soliciting for sales, taking orders for sales, keeping or exposing for sale, delivery or other trafficking for a valuable consideration promised or obtained, and procuring or allowing procurement for any other person.

49. "School" means a public or private school or that portion of a public or private school which provides facilities for teaching any grade from kindergarten through grade twelve.

50. "Spirits" means any beverage which contains alcohol obtained by distillation mixed with drinkable water and other substances in solution, including, but not limited to, brandy, rum, whisky, and gin.

51. "Unincorporated town" means a compactly populated area recognized as a distinct place with a distinct place-name which is not itself incorporated or within the corporate limits of a city.

52. "Warehouse" means any premises or place primarily constructed or used or provided with facilities for the storage in transit or other temporary storage of perishable goods or for the conduct of normal warehousing business.

53. "Wholesaler" means any person, other than a vintner, brewer or bottler of beer or wine, who shall sell, barter, exchange, offer for sale, have in possession with intent to sell, deal or traffic in alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer. A wholesaler shall not sell for consumption upon the premises.

54. "Wine" means any beverage containing more than six and twenty-five hundredths percent of alcohol by volume but not more than twenty-one and twenty-five hundredths percent of alcohol by volume obtained by the fermentation of the natural sugar contents of fruits or other agricultural products but excluding any product containing alcohol

derived from malt or by the distillation process from grain, cereal, molasses, or cactus.

123.33 Records.

Every holder of a license or permit under this chapter shall maintain records, in printed or electronic format, which include income statements, balance sheets, purchase and sales invoices, purchase and sales ledgers, and any other records as the administrator may require. The records required and the premises of the licensee or permittee shall be accessible and open to inspection pursuant to section 123.30, subsection 1, during normal business hours of the licensee or permittee.

123.186 Federal regulations adopted as rules.

1. The division shall adopt as rules the substance of the federal regulations 27 C.F.R. pt. 6, 27 C.F.R. pt. 8, 27 C.F.R. pt. 10, and 27 C.F.R. pt. 11.

2. The division shall adopt as rules the substance of 27 C.F.R. §6.88, to permit a manufacturer of alcoholic beverages, wine, or beer, or an agent of such manufacturer, to provide to a retailer without charge wine and beer coil cleaning services, including carbon dioxide filters and other necessary accessories to properly clean the coil and affix carbon dioxide filters. The rules shall provide that the manufacturer shall be responsible for paying the costs of any filters provided.

3. A licensee or permittee who permits or assents to or is a party in any way to a violation or infringement of a rule adopted pursuant to this section is guilty of a violation of this section. A violation of this section shall subject the licensee or permittee to the general penalties provided in this chapter and shall constitute grounds for imposition of a civil penalty or suspension or revocation of the license or permit pursuant to section 123.39.