



State of New Jersey
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control

TASTINGS

Guidelines for
Alcoholic Beverage
Tastings
held at
NJABC
Class C Plenary
Retail
Consumption
Licensed
Establishments

**A PLENARY OR SEASONAL
RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSEE
OR
AN ANNUAL STATE PERMITTEE**

“Tasting event” means a scheduled event hosted by a licensee or permittee, at which samples may be provided, that may be open to the general public or limited by invitation. Tasting events are subject to the following requirements:

1. The licensee must hold a valid, active Plenary Retail Consumption License or a valid, active Annual State Permit.
2. Tasting events shall be scheduled in advance no later than 12:00 noon of the business day prior to the tasting event and may be limited by invitation or open to the general public. A tasting event shall consist of only one category of samples at a time and there must be a two-hour interval between tasting events on any licensed premises. The categories for tasting events are: malt alcoholic beverages, wine, or distilled spirits.
3. All alcoholic beverages consumed at the tasting event must be obtained from the inventory of the host licensee or annual state permittee.
4. In any one calendar day, servings of alcoholic beverages per person are limited to:
 - i. No more than four three-ounce samples of a particular malt alcoholic beverage; or
 - ii. No more than four one-and one-half ounce samples of wine; or
 - iii. No more than three one-half ounce samples of distilled spirits.
5. Tasting events shall not be offered to any person under the legal age for consuming alcoholic beverages or to intoxicated persons.
6. Tasting events are not to be offered when the sale of alcoholic beverages is otherwise prohibited.
7. Tasting events may be advertised in any type of media, including but not limited to, print, radio, television, Internet and signs, and these advertisements may include the date, time and location of the event, such as the name and address of the licensed premises and other information regarding the event.
8. A supplier, manufacturer, importer, wholesaler, solicitor or authorized representative licensed or permitted by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control may provide the licensee upon whose premises the tasting event will be held with permissible advertising and promotional materials for use at the event and permissible consumer novelties for distribution to consumers attending the event.

9. Any licensed or permitted supplier, manufacturer, importer, wholesaler, solicitor or an authorized representative licensed or permitted by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control may participate in, assist with, and promote consumer wine, beer, and spirits tasting events up to two times per month at a licensed premises, except that samples shall not be served by any employee of a wholesale licensee. They may not take orders or solicit sales to consumers. For purposes of this section: 1) a wholesale licensee is one who sells to retailers and files a CPL (Current Price List) with the Division; and 2) an authorized representative includes those individuals covered by a Special Marketing Agent Permit.
10. To participate in any tasting event, a supplier, manufacturer, importer, wholesaler, solicitor or an authorized representative licensed or permitted by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, must have an annual special permit to participate in consumer tasting events. The fee for the annual special permit shall be \$200.00 and an additional \$200.00 permit for each solicitor or duly authorized representative.
11. Consumption licensees utilizing a sampling kiosk or automatic dispenser for sampling must notify the Division prior to the machine's first use.



QUESTIONS?

If you have specific questions regarding a Tasting Event held at a Retail Consumption License or Annual State Permittee, you can contact the NJABC and speak with -

NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control
Office of the Counsel to the Director
Deputy Attorney General Lisa R. Barata
609-633-6079



***REGULATORY
LICENSING***



ENFORCEMENT



INVESTIGATIONS

Michael I. Halfacre, Director