



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

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Circular Letter 15-04

To: Breweries, Wineries and Farm Winery Licensees

Subject: Manufacturers Banquet Licenses with Multi Co-Licensees

Purpose: To provide guidance to Breweries, Wineries and Farm Wineries regarding Manufacturers Special Event Banquet Licenses with multi Co-Licensees

Background: Section 4.1-215 (A) grants this Department the authority to issue banquet special events licenses to manufacturers of wine and beer under certain conditions and restrictions. The event must be held at a location approved by the Board and conducted for the purpose of educating the consuming public about the wines and/or beer being served. Manufacturers are limited to obtaining these licenses for such events to four times per year and where the event occurs on three consecutive days, the manufacturer needs to obtain only one license.

Held: The Agency has determined that multiple wineries, farm wineries or breweries participating in a festival may apply for a manufacturer's special events license as co-licensees. As co-licensees each participating winery, farm winery or brewery would be permitted to sell or sample their products directly to attendees at the event for on premises consumption in approved areas. Each event will be counted as one of the four annual events for each manufacturer whose name appears on the license. Should any violations of ABC law or Board Regulations occur, all of the manufacturers listed on the joint license will be potentially liable for any infraction which could lead to disciplinary action being taken against each manufacturer's license.

Each manufacturer participating in events for which a manufacturer's special events license is issued must insure that their products offered for sale at the event have been properly invoiced to their retail sales area. Wineries, which do not have the privileges of a farm winery participating in such events, must hold a winery off premises license and any wines to be sold at these events must be routed through this license.

Farm wineries participating in such events that wish to sell wine for off premises consumption should request remote approval. This remote approval should be limited to "off premises" sales only.

Questions regarding this topic should be addressed to your Compliance Senior Special Agent or compliance@abc.virginia.gov

Travis G. Hill
Chief Operating Officer/Secretary to the Board.