

PRODUCTION OF SPIRITS FOR PERSONAL USE

Please be advised that it is the Pennsylvania State Police, Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement (BLCE), and not the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB), which enforces the liquor laws in Pennsylvania. Further, information provided below is not binding on the BLCE and is offered for information and guidance only.

Please note there is no exception permitting the production of spirits at home in the Pennsylvania Liquor Code.

The Liquor Code defines “alcohol” as “. . . ethyl alcohol of any degree of proof originally produced by the distillation of any fermented liquid, whether rectified or diluted with or without water, whatever may be the origin thereof, and shall include powered alcohol and synthetic ethyl alcohol but, shall not include ethyl alcohol, whether or not diluted, that has been denatured or otherwise rendered unfit for beverage purposes.” 47 P.S. § 1-102.

The Liquor Code defines “liquor” as “. . . any alcoholic, spirituous, vinous, fermented or other alcohol beverage, or combination of liquors and mixed liquor, a part of which is spirituous, vinous, fermented or otherwise alcoholic, including all drinks or drinkable liquids, preparations or mixtures, and reused, recovered or redistilled denatured alcohol usable or taxable for beverage purposes which contain more than one half of one percent (½%) of alcohol by volume, except pure ethyl alcohol and malt or brewed beverages.” Id.

If you produce alcohol that is potable (i.e., drinkable), and is not wine or a malt or brewed beverage, then you would need to obtain a distillery or limited distillery license from the PLCB in order to manufacture the alcohol.

Section 102 of the Liquor Code defines “distillery” to mean “any premises or plant wherein alcohol or liquor is manufactured, made and distilled from raw materials, blended or rectified, or any place wherein alcohol or liquor is produced by any method suitable for the production of alcohol.” 47 P.S. § 1-102. A limited distillery license allows a maximum production of 100,000 gallons of distilled spirits per year. 47 P.S. § 5-505.4(b)(1).

You may obtain additional information regarding obtaining a distillery or limited distillery license by contacting the Bureau of Licensing at (717) 783-8250, or at P.O. Box 8940, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8940.

Also, [applications](#) must be completed via PLCB+.