

Licensing - Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Ready-to-Drink Cocktails (RTDC)

The following questions and answers address obtaining a RTDC permit. For information about legal matters regarding RTDC as provided for in Act 86 of 2024, please refer to the [Legal FAQs](#), and for information about acquiring RTDC from the PLCB for purposes of resale, please refer to the [Wholesale FAQs](#).

1. How can a licensee apply for a RTDC permit?

Interested licensees may apply for a RTDC permit by using the PLCB's online regulatory system, [PLCB+](#). For assistance, please email ra-LBLICRTDC@pa.gov.

Note: Only restaurant, hotel, distributor and importing distributor licensees are eligible to apply for and obtain RTDC permits. Eligible restaurant licensees include Airport Restaurant Liquor (AR), Economic Development Restaurant Liquor (EDR), Municipal Golf Course Liquor (GR), Off-Track Wagering Restaurant Liquor (OWR), Privately-Owned Public Golf Course Restaurant Liquor (PGR) and Restaurant Liquor (R) licensees.

2. What fees are associated with the RTDC permit?

There is a \$2,500 application fee for the RTDC permit. RTDC permits are also subject to an annual renewal fee of 2% of the cost of RTDC purchased for off-premises consumption, combining all the permittee's RTDC purchases during the reporting period for off-premises consumption from the PLCB and any licensed Pennsylvania manufacturers.

3. Will the fee for 2024 be pro-rated?

The RTDC filing fee for 2024 will not be prorated. However, licensees will receive a full year of permit authority. Since license expiration and renewal/validation timeframes vary by county, licensees will be notified of the expiration of the inaugural permit at the time of permit approval.



4. Are the fees for a RTDC permit separate from the other fees that licensees must pay for their licenses or other permits?

Yes. The fees for a RTDC permit, including the initial \$2,500 fee and any renewal fees, are separate from the fees associated with the other licenses or permits held by each licensee.

5. Does a licensee need to be Responsible Alcohol Management Program (RAMP)-certified to be eligible for a RTDC permit?

Yes. Licensees must be fully RAMP-certified to be eligible for an RTDC. RAMP certification should be completed prior to applying for an RTDC permit in [PLCB+](#). For information about [RAMP](#) or to obtain a RAMP access code, please contact the PLCB's Bureau of Alcohol Education at ra-lbramp@pa.gov. When requesting a RAMP access code, licensees must provide their LID and license number.

6. Do persons employed by RTDC permit holders to serve RTDC need to receive seller/server RAMP training?

Yes. Anyone employed by an RTDC permit holder to serve RTDC must receive seller/server RAMP training, regardless of their date of hire by the licensee.

Note: This is in addition to the requirement RTDC permit holders must be RAMP certified.

7. What total percentage of employees need to be RAMP server/seller trained for the establishment to be RAMP-certified?

At least 50% of the licensee's alcohol service staff must be RAMP server/seller trained before RAMP certification can be granted, and 50% or more of the alcohol service staff must be server/seller trained on an ongoing basis.



8. In addition to a RTDC permit, is there anything else needed for an RTDC permit holder to purchase RTDC from the PLCB?

Yes. In order to purchase RTDC from the PLCB and receive the 10% licensee discount, RTDC permit holders will be required to present a wholesale purchase permit card. Wholesale purchase permit cards must be requested through [PLCB+](#).

A licensee may authorize up to four individuals on a single wholesale purchase permit card to purchase/pickup product from the PLCB's Fine Wine & Good Spirits stores and/or licensee service centers. Wholesale purchase permit cards may be used to purchase/pickup product at any Fine Wine & Good Spirits store or licensee service center located throughout Pennsylvania.

9. Once a licensee has applied for a RTDC permit, how long will it take for the permit to be issued?

The Bureau of Licensing will process applications for RTDC as quickly as possible. As with any other applications, processing times may vary depending on whether deficiencies are identified during the application review process. Application volumes may also impact processing times, particularly on September 16, 2024, and continuing for the first few weeks that RTDC permits are available.

10. After a RTDC permit is issued, from whom can a RTDC permit holder purchase RTDC for purposes of resale?

A RTDC permit holder may purchase RTDC for purposes of resale from the PLCB or any licensed Pennsylvania manufacturer, which is defined as an entity that holds an active limited distillery license or held an active limited distillery license prior to July 1, 2024, and subsequently acquired a distillery license. For more information on purchasing RTDC from the PLCB, permit holders may visit the [Licensee Online Order Portal \(LOOP\)](#) or contact the PLCB's Bureau of Wholesale Operations at RA-LBWHOLESALE@pa.gov.



11. Do RTDC permit holders need to keep records of the RTDC they purchase for resale?

Yes. RTDC permit holders must keep records of the RTDC they purchase for resale, regardless of whether the RTDC are obtained from the PLCB or licensed Pennsylvania manufactures. In addition to meeting the record keeping requirements for licensees as set forth in section 493(12) of the Liquor Code, 47 P.S. § 4-493(12), maintaining these records is important for purposes of submitting RTDC permit renewal applications and paying the applicable renewal fees. [PLCB+](#) will calculate renewal fees based licensee inputs, and the PLCB will utilize information it maintains within the [Licensee Online Order Portal \(LOOP\)](#) as well as reporting provided by Pennsylvania licensed manufacturers to verify those amounts.