

Revised Guidelines for Procuring Products to be Poured for Public Tastings at Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB)-sanctioned Events

Thanks to feedback from the vendor community, the PLCB had opportunity to revisit the guidance it issued in early 2022 to determine if there was any legal option other than requiring vendors to purchase at retail all products to be poured as public tastings at events like annual wine and spirits festivals. The PLCB is pleased to announce a new position on how vendors may procure products to be poured at events the PLCB participates in or sponsors, and we apologize for missing this special allowance in our initial review of the issue.

Per a specific exception to state law that otherwise requires vendors to acquire products for tastings through the state store system (paying at retail), vendors pouring tastings of wine and/or spirits at events in which the PLCB participates or sponsors (including but not limited to wine festivals, whiskey/spirits festivals, food festivals, PHS Flower Show, etc.) may EITHER purchase such products from the PLCB in advance of each event, OR donate the products to be used for tastings (47 P.S. § 2-215).

Note this exemption applies only to specific events, and not to in-store tastings. All products for in-store tastings must continue to be purchased from the PLCB in advance of each tasting.

Additional Event Guidelines

All vendors, including Pennsylvania limited distilleries and limited wineries, that participate in events in which the PLCB participates or sponsors may only pour items available for purchase from Fine Wine & Good Spirits, including listed, luxury, one-time buy and Special Order products.

All sales to the public at such events must occur through a designated FW&GS retail store (often on site) or through FWGS.com. Vendors, including Pennsylvania producers, may NOT sell directly from their tables at such events, absent an exposition permit (only available to licensed limited wineries and limited distilleries).

Any questions regarding this guidance may be directed to ra-lbfestivalsevents@pa.gov.