

## [\*Coronavirus Information\*](#)

The Alabama ABC Board's main priority is the health and safety of our citizens. We encourage our staff, as well as all of our licensees/permittees, to follow the guidelines of the [CDC](#) and state/local public health officials in the days and weeks to come as we continue to fight the spread of the coronavirus.

The Alabama ABC Board realizes the significant impact the coronavirus pandemic is having on the alcoholic beverage industry due to restrictions placed on business, event cancellations and other measures taken to protect the public. To assist as much as we can during this difficult time, we're providing answers to common questions you may have.

If AABC has the authority to relax an agency process, and determines it is in the best interest of the public to do so, or if the Governor's Office issues an emergency proclamation, we will place those changes on this page and direct you to further guidance whenever possible.

Scroll down to see all of the FAQs or choose a topic below

## [\*Licensing and Compliance Offices\*](#)

The Licensing and Compliance Division offices are currently open to the public by appointment only; however, in our effort to limit exposure and promote safe social distancing, we encourage our applicants to submit applications electronically whenever possible. If you do not have access to e-mail or otherwise cannot submit your application electronically, please call your division office to set up an appointment. Please do not bring any guests or family members with you to your appointment. National and State guidelines dictate that the public wear a face mask; therefore, you will be required to wear a face mask at all times while in our office. You must bring your own mask. If prior to your scheduled appointment you begin experiencing coronavirus symptoms, have been exposed to COVID with no testing, or have been tested for COVID with a positive result, please notify your local Licensing and Compliance Division office to discuss how to move forward with your application. **Questions regarding licenses, permits, applications, compliance, or any other general concerns may be [e-mailed](#) or you can reach your [local Licensing and Compliance Office](#) by phone.**

## [\*Temporary Changes to ABC Rules and/or Processes\*](#)

### [\*Emergency Rule\*](#)

The Alabama ABC Board passed an [Emergency Rule](#) on July 27, 2020 requiring all ABC on-premises licensees to cease the service and/or sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. with on -premises consumption to end at 11:30 p.m.

## Liquor Liability Insurance

Per ABC Rules and Regulations [20-X-5-.14](#) and [20-X-8-.14\(c\)](#), all licensees who hold a license allowing the retail sale of alcohol must maintain liquor liability insurance at all times. Failure to do so will result in a citation, or possibly suspension of the ABC license.

If you have chosen to **completely close** temporarily due to Covid, you may cancel your liquor liability insurance provided that you receive approval from the ABC Licensing and Compliance Division and obtain liquor liability before you re-open the business or make any sales of alcohol.

To request approval for liquor liability cancellation, send an [email](#) to the ABC Licensing and Compliance Division that includes the following information:

- Subject: "Liquor Liability Cancellation Requested"
- Short statement explaining that you are fully closed for business and are not selling alcohol and that you understand you will need to obtain liquor liability insurance prior to re-opening and making any sales of alcohol
- Business name
- Physical location address
- License number
- Date on which the business ceased all alcohol sales

Please keep in mind that this is strictly related to liquor liability and not general liability. You should maintain other insurance you need to protect your business in case of any issues unrelated to alcohol. Also, be sure that you fully discuss options with your insurance company. The ABC Board has nothing to do with insurance coverage or premium refunds. We do require that you have liquor liability coverage per 20-X-5-.14, but we do not control anything to do with insurance.

## Wholesaler Sales Invoices

Effective March 25, 2020 and the following 120 days.

### **COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOL CONCERNING WHOLESALER INVOICES**

Out of an abundance of caution with respect to the safety and well-being for wholesalers delivering alcoholic products, as well as retailers receiving alcoholic products, the ABC Board is recommending the following signature modification for all wholesaler sales invoices.

Additional safety protocols have become necessary to promote required social distancing for ABC licensees. For the next 120 days, ABC will suspend the requirement for wholesalers to obtain a recipient signature on invoices for alcoholic product sold, furnished, or delivered as regulated, in part, by Alabama ABC Regulations [20-X-8-.09\(2\)](#), [20-X-9-.02\(1\)\(b\)](#), and [20-X-9-.03\(1\)\(b\)](#). In lieu of the recipient signature, the wholesaler should indicate the full name of the recipient and "COVID-19" in the recipient signature line.

**The modified signature requirement for the wholesaler sales invoices has been extended in conjunction with the Emergency Rule issued and effective August 1, 2020.**

## Gift Cards

Gift cards are allowed provided that they are sold for the 'same as cash' price and do not offer any type of discount or inducement to purchase alcohol prohibited by [ABC Rules and Regulations 20-X-6-.12](#). For example, a licensee could not offer \$50 gift cards for sale for \$40, unless alcohol is excluded. Also, alcohol cannot be given as a prize (See [ABC Rules and Regulations 20-X-7-.01\(f\)](#)). For example, giving a bar tab or gift card as a prize would be the same as giving alcohol as a prize and would be prohibited.

\*\*Lounges/Package stores can sell gift cards for their own location but may not sell gift cards for other locations because that would be considered general merchandise.

## Additional Outdoor Dining Space

**The State of Emergency issued for Alabama ends July 6, 2021. Temporary outdoor seating in parking lots or similar areas that were allowed during the pandemic will no longer be authorized.**

**Should any licensee wish to expand its service area by adding a permanent patio or similar area, we will be glad to work with them to do this as allowed with-in their license type, after they have acquired the proper city or county approval.**

If the licensee has a **permanent patio** area they want to add to their premises, the following requirements would need to be met:

1. Authorization from the city or county approving the addition of the patio.
2. A copy of the lease or use agreement that includes the outdoor area.
3. The area to be used must be clearly defined and must be adjacent or connected to the premises.
4. A sketch of the clearly defined patio area.
5. Once the licensee has these items, contact the district office and we will take photos of the area and add it to the premises on record.

We do not normally allow parking lots or other similar spaces to be included in the licensed premises. However, in light of the situation, we would temporarily allow these areas to be included for **temporary outdoor seating** once the following requirements are met:

1. Authorization from the city or county approving the temporary use/addition of the parking lot or other temporary outdoor dining space.
2. A copy of the lease or use agreement for the temporary outdoor seating area.
3. The area to be used must be clearly defined and must be adjacent or connected to the premises.
4. A sketch of the clearly defined outdoor seating.
5. A copy of the menu if there are any changes for the temporary outdoor dining area.
6. A timeline for use of the temporary outdoor dining area.
7. Once the licensee has these items, contact the district office and we will take photos of the area and temporarily add it to the premises on record.

For additional assistance and information, affected businesses may [email](#) the ABC Licensing and Compliance Division ([licensing@abc.alabama.gov](mailto:licensing@abc.alabama.gov)), call your [local Licensing and Compliance Office](#) or call our main office at 334-213-6300