

Self-Distribution by Wineries, Distilleries and Microbreweries in Montgomery County, Maryland

Small-scale wineries, distilleries and microbreweries can distribute their products directly to alcohol license holders in the state of Maryland. State law allows them to sell their products directly to local restaurants and bars without having to go through a distributor such as Montgomery County's Alcohol Beverage Services (ABS) or to obtain a state wholesaler's license.

The law does limit who can distribute under the new license. These are the distribution requirements by business type:

Microbreweries

- A Class 7 micro-brewery may obtain a Class 7 limited beer wholesaler's license from the State to distribute its beer.
- The microbrewery is eligible as long as it generates no more than 22,500 barrels of beer annually from all of its locations.
- The license is also available to holders of a Class 5 manufacturer's license and a Class 8 farm brewery license that produce not more than 22,500 barrels of beer annually from all of its locations.
- The license authorizes the license holder to sell and deliver its own beer by using its own vehicle or hiring a third-party for delivery service.

Wineries

- A Class 4 winery may obtain a Class 6 limited wine wholesaler's license from the State to distribute its wine.
- The winery is eligible as long as it generates no more than 27,500 gallons of wine per year.
- An out-of-state winery that produces no more than 27,500 gallons of its own wine annually can also obtain a non-resident winery permit to self-distribute to Maryland retailers and restaurant license holders.

Distilleries

- A Class 1 distillery may obtain a Class 8 liquor wholesaler's license from the State to distribute its spirits.
- The distillery is eligible as long as it produces less than 100,000 gallons of distilled spirits per year.
- Distilleries are limited to self-distributing less than 27,500 gallons per year. The surplus needs to be distributed by a wholesaler with a different license.