



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DIRECT WINE SHIPPER PERMITTING

1. Where do I apply for the Direct Wine Shipper Permit and Bond?

The application, checklist and bond form are available at the Comptroller of Maryland's website at: http://compnet.comp.state.md.us/Motor_Fuel_Alcohol_and_Tobacco_Tax/Alcohol_and_Tobacco_Tax/Alcohol_Tax_Information/Administrative_News_and_Forms/Alcohol_Tax_Forms.shtml

2. What are the reporting requirements for the permit?

The Direct Wine Shipper Excise Tax Return must be filed quarterly. It is currently in production and will also be available at the above website.

The Alcoholic Beverages Sales Tax rate for Maryland is 9%. A Sales and Use Tax Return must be filed with the Sales and Use Tax Division of the Comptroller's Office. Instructions in reference to the Alcoholic Beverages Sales and Use Tax can be found at: http://business.marylandtaxes.com/taxinfo/sut_faq.asp

3. How much is the initial permit fee and what is the term of the permit? How much is permit renewal?

The initial permit costs \$200; there are no additional application fees. The term of the permit is one (1) year beginning on July 1 of each year. There are no pro rata permit fees. Annual renewal is \$200.

4. Approximately how long will it take the Comptroller's Office to approve a Direct Wine Shipper's Permit application?

It will typically take 5-7 business days, as long as the application is complete and all information requested on the checklist has been submitted.

5. Who should be contacted within the Maryland Comptroller's Office with questions about permitting?

You may contact Licensing & Registration at 410-260-7327.

6. If a winery does not yet have a renewed license from its own state due to processing delays, can the winery still apply for the permit?

The winery may still apply but will need to submit a copy of its completed renewal application and verification of payment.

7. How should an out-of-state winery obtain security for its Maryland bond requirement?

An applicant may obtain any of the following types of security for the alcoholic beverage tax bond requirement:

- A bond issued by a surety company that is authorized to do business in the State and is approved by the State Insurance Commissioner;
- Cash bond;
- Marketable securities;
- An Irrevocable Letter of Credit.

8. Can retail licensees or retail wine-of-the-month clubs like those from the New York Times or Wall Street Journal obtain this permit?

No, they cannot. The qualifications for applicants are:

- Holder of a Maryland Class 3 or Class 4 Manufacturer's license or
- Person licensed outside of Maryland to engage in the manufacture of wine.

9. Do Maryland Wineries need to obtain an additional Bond and submit a Power of Attorney as a Direct Wine Shipper?

No, neither are required if you are currently licensed as a Maryland Winery.