

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

ALCOHOL AND MARIJUANA CONTROL OFFICE 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1600 Anchorage, AK 99501 Main: 907.269.0350

April 17, 2023

Alcoholic Beverage Licensees



Re:

Dear Alcoholic Beverage Licensees,

Please consider this email as the first of many invitations to you to learn how the Title 4 Rewrite will be impacting your license effective January 1, 2024.

As you know, the <u>Title 4 Rewrite (Senate Bill 9 [SB9])</u> was signed into law last summer. Because of the substantial nature of the changes, the bill provided AMCO and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Board or ABC Board) 18 months to make those license changes effective. We are well on our way to meeting that deadline and want to make sure you are aware of all of our activities and our commitment to make this transition as seamless as possible for all of you.

Here are a few highlights.

Regulations

AMCO's current regulations are located at 3 AAC 304. Because of the substantial changes in the licensing system, we elected to rewrite governing regulations by creating a new chapter 3 AAC 305. That chapter will contain nine articles. The first two articles are currently out for public input.

<u>Article 1</u> – addresses AMCO operations and the licensing and endorsement application procedure. <u>Article 2</u> – addresses regulations specific to manufacturers.

The ABC Board is holding a special meeting by Zoom on May 2, 2023, to review written comments received prior to that date and to hold an oral hearing on those regulations. Following that oral hearing, the Board will be reviewing drafts of Articles 3, 4, and 6 and preparing to put those regulations out for public comment. Drafts of Articles 3, 4, and 6 will be added to meeting documents prior to that meeting so stay tuned.

Additional ABC Board Meetings

In addition to meeting May 2, 2023, the ABC Board will hold a two-day meeting in Anchorage and by Zoom on May 30 - 31, 2023. One of those dates will be dedicated to regulation review.

The On-Line Licensing System

We have selected Gov2Biz to develop the on-line licensing system for alcoholic beverage and marijuana licensees. You can find out more about the chosen vendor here. We are on task to test the software in June and July and will be reaching out to licensees to test its effectiveness. Our aim is to go live in September 2023, the same time that SB 9 permits AMCO and the ABC Board to collect license applications and fees for licenses and endorsements processed effective January 1, 2024.

Education and Training

The Title 4 Rewrite reorganizes alcoholic beverages into three tiers: the manufacturer tier, the wholesale tier, and the retailer tier. We will be scheduling trainings to be held beginning in May and continuing through the Summer specific to each licensing tier. While this email is going directly to you as authorized representatives for your license, we want this training to be as broad as you desire. As such, please email our Title 4 Rewrite program manager Janyce Ibele at Janyce.ibele@alaska.gov with the names and email addresses of everyone in your organization (or your legal counsel) that you would like to participate in these trainings. The training sessions will be held both virtually and in person. If you would like us to hold a training session specific to your organization, please let Ms. Ibele know that as well. We will be happy to do so.

Title 4 Rewrite Landing Site

Please review our webpage specific to the Title 4 Rewrite on a regular basis. You can access it here. We will regularly update this page. Please also check our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page for questions specific to the Title 4 Rewrite. You may address your own questions to Title4.amco@alaska.gov.

Dedicated AMCO Staff

The ABC Board and AMCO staff well understand the importance of your license to your business. As such, we are dedicating our time to ensure that the implementation of the Title 4 Rewrite is on time and effective. Our licensing examining team, administration team, and enforcement team will conduct their regular activities necessary for bringing your businesses into operation or keeping your businesses operating. While they perform their roles, we have many staff on board to assist you with Title 4 Rewrite specific actions. Among them are Jane Sawyer (Jane.sawyer@alaska.gov) our office's Program Coordinator. She oversees our Title 4 Rewrite Team. Janyce Ibele (Janyce.Ibele@alaska.gov) serves as the Project Manager for implementation of the Title 4 Rewrite. Kristina Serezhenkov (amco.regs@alaska.gov) serves as our office's Regulations Specialist. You will be hearing from her a number of times when we submit draft regulations to you for public input. Gabriel Gonzales (Gabriel.gonzales@alaska.gov) serves

as our office's Local Government Specialist. He will work with local governments to ensure they are educated on the impact of the Title 4 Rewrite. Please email any of these individuals whenever you have concerns. I also am available to you for any questions you might have at joan.wilson@alaska.gov or (907) 269-0351(direct).

Conclusion

On behalf of the ABC Board and your team at AMCO, we very much look forward to working with all of you. We will be in touch soon with details regarding upcoming training sessions. Until then....

Respectfully,

Joan M. Wilson AMCO Director

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