

Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission  
**CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL (CERA) APPLICATION & AGREEMENT**



**INTRODUCTION**

**What are the privileges of a Certificate of Approval permit?**

An Oregon wholesaler of wine, cider or malt beverage may import the wine, cider or malt beverage into Oregon only if one or both of the following applies:

- If the wine, cider or malt beverage is being sent to the Oregon wholesaler from a person in the United State but from a state other than Oregon, the person sending the alcohol must have a valid CERA, or
- If the wine, cider or malt beverage is being sent to the Oregon wholesaler directly from a person outside of the United State, the Oregon wholesaler must have a valid CERA.

Note: A CERA is not needed for distilled liquor.

**What are the definitions in Oregon for wine, cider, malt beverages and distilled liquor?**

- **Wine** is made via the fermentation process, is not a cider or malt beverage, and contains not more than 21% alcohol by volume. Note: Cider containing more than 8.5% alcohol is considered wine
- **Cider** is made from the fermentation of the juice of apples or pears that contains not more than 8.5% alcohol by volume, including, but not limited to, flavored, sparkling or carbonated cider.
- **Malt Beverage** means beer, ale, porter, stout and other similar fermented beverages that contain more than one-half of one percent and not more than 16% of alcohol by volume and that are brewed or produced from malt, wholly or in part, or from rice, grain, bran, glucose, sugar or molasses as a substitute for malt. Malt beverage does not include cider, mead, sake or wine.
- **Distilled liquor** is any alcoholic beverage that does not qualify as a wine, cider or malt beverage. Other common names for distilled liquor are distilled spirits, hard liquor and hard cider.

**What is the fee for a Certificate of Approval permit?**

The fee is \$350.

**For what period of time is a Certificate of Approval permit valid?**

A CERA is valid for a period beginning on the date of issuance and ending on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the fifth calendar year. Renewal notices will be mailed in October of the year your permit expires.

**What are the qualifications to obtain a Certificate of Approval permit?**

In order to obtain a CERA you must submit:

- A completed and signed application, and
- A \$350 fee, made payable to OLCC

**Do my employees or agents need an OLCC license or permit?**

Your employees or agents who solicit wholesale order for wine, cider or malt beverages in Oregon are not required to have a license, provided they do not conduct tasting or pour or serve alcoholic beverages on a licensed premises. However, employees or agents who conduct tasting or otherwise serve alcohol for consumption at any license premises in Oregon must have a valid Oregon Service Permit.

**Is there a bond requirement?**

No. A bond is not required for a CERA permit.

**What are the record keeping and reporting requirements?**

You must submit a monthly report to the OLCC of all wine, cider and malt beverage sales to wholesalers in Oregon. The OLCC will send you the reporting forms within 30 days of issuance of your CERA permit. Any questions regarding reporting requirements should be directed to [OLCC.PrivilegeTax@oregon.gov](mailto:OLCC.PrivilegeTax@oregon.gov).

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**What is a territorial agreement?**

Oregon law prohibits an Oregon wholesaler from selling any brand of malt beverage (but only malt beverage) in Oregon unless there is an agreement between the Oregon wholesaler and either the manufacturer of the malt beverage or CERA holder authorizing sale by the Oregon wholesaler of the brand within a designated territory. This agreement is called a territorial agreement. It must designate a wholesaler, territory, and each brand covered by the agreement. Agreements must be signed by both parties or their authorized agents and a copy provided to the OLCC. Any questions regarding a territorial agreement need to be directed to [Bryant.Haley@oregon.gov](mailto:Bryant.Haley@oregon.gov).

**What are label requirements in Oregon?**

All labels must comply with Oregon law and have federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) approval. Oregon law does not require you to obtain prior OLCC approval, unless the label is a private label. Private labels contain an Oregon retailer's trade name, trademark, or other words or symbols identifiable with a retailer. If you have questions about Oregon label requirements, please contact [Bryant.Haley@oregon.gov](mailto:Bryant.Haley@oregon.gov).

- Wines: Generally, wine labels that receive TTB approval are legal for sale in Oregon. If a wine has Oregon as an appellation of origin, it must also comply with the wine labeling requirements under Oregon rules.
- Malt Beverages: Generally, malt beverage labels that receive TTB approval are legal for sale in Oregon. However, if a malt beverage contains more than 6% alcohol by volume, the alcohol content must be stated conspicuously on the container in terms of volume and the product may not be labeled as "beer." This required labeling may be on a sticker applied by the Oregon wholesaler.
- Bottle Bill Compliance: An Oregon refund statement of not less than 5 cents must be clearly indicated on the container of all malt beverages. The refund statement can be in the form of a sticker and may be applied by the Oregon wholesaler. Oregon law prohibits pull tabs or rings. Any plastic rings connecting beverage containers must be biodegradable. If you have questions about Oregon's bottle bill you may contact [OLCC.BottleBill@oregon.gov](mailto:OLCC.BottleBill@oregon.gov).

**What are the rules/law regarding supplier/retailer relationships in Oregon?**

Oregon has guidelines and rules about promotions, advertising and financial relationships between manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers. Please read the [Supplier-Retailer Relations Guidelines](#). If you have questions you may contact [Bryant.Haley@oregon.gov](mailto:Bryant.Haley@oregon.gov).

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Name (Entity or Individuals)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trade Name of the Business (Name Customers Will See)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Premises Address (Number and Street Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address (Number and Street Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Contact Person Email Phone Number

Please include with your application:

- \$350 fee. Enclose check or money order made payable to OLCC.

I certify that I have read the Information Memo and the [Supplier-Retailer Relations Guidelines](#). I further certify that the applicant I represent agrees to comply with all laws of the State of Oregon pertaining to the sale of malt beverages, cider or wine and all rules and regulation of the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print) Signature Date

**Return to: OLCC, PO Box 22297, Milwaukie, OR 97269**