



News Release

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OLCC Commissioners allow exchanges to get Alcoholic Energy Drinks out of Oregon

PORTLAND, Ore. – At a special meeting today, Oregon Liquor Control Commissioners voted unanimously in favor to approve a rule change allowing wholesalers and distributors to exchange the recently banned alcohol-caffeinated energy drinks for other malt beverage products of equivalent value. The decision came as a result of a public safety concern that banned alcoholic energy drinks left in the state could still become available to the public.

“We’re hoping to close the loop in availability of these harmful products to the general public,” says OLCC Chairman Philip Lang. “It’s really a win-win for everyone. This way the products are returned safely to the manufacturers and our small Oregon retailers aren’t left holding the bag with cases of products they can’t sell.”

The seven products affected by the ban include Core High Gravity HG Green, Core High Gravity HG Orange, Lemon Lime Core Spiked, Moonshot, Four Loko, Joose, and Max, which were determined to be “adulterated” products by the FDA because they contain the “unsafe food additive” of caffeine. The ban on these products went into effect Nov. 20.

The temporary rule will be effective until May 30, 2011. During that time, OLCC staff will begin permanent rulemaking concerning exchanging alcoholic products. The special commission meeting was held at 10:00 a.m., Dec. 3, 2010 at the OLCC headquarters in Milwaukie.

The five citizen commissioners are the policy-making body of the OLCC. They meet monthly for one or two days to make decisions on liquor licenses, rules, contested case hearings and appointments of liquor store agents. Commission meetings are held every other month at OLCC’s main office, 9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Room 103A in Portland. Subsequent months, the meetings are held via phone. Agenda items can be obtained on-line at http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/public_meetings.shtml

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Did you know that in the last two years, the OLCC distributed more than \$343 million to Oregon's General Fund, Cities, Counties, and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs? [See the distribution of dollars on OLCC's Website.](#)