



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

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Circular Letter 15-02

To: Applicants for Limited Brewery Licenses

Subject: Limited Brewery Licenses

Purpose: To provide guidance on the process by which the agency will implement the provisions of 4-1-208 (2) in the granting of limited brewery licenses as to the licensed premises.

Background: The 2014 Session of the General Assembly passed legislation (HB 430) that authorized the Board effective July 1, 2014 to issue a limited brewery license. The approved provisions of HB 430 were incorporated into the Code of Virginia as section 4.1-208 (2) which limits the licensed premises to

that portion of the farm on which agricultural products, including barley, other grains, hops or fruit, used by the brewery in the manufacture of beer are grown and is contiguous to the premises of such brewery where the beer is manufactured...

The Code gives the Board the authority to approve additional areas of the farm as part of the licensed premises provided that Board provides notice to the local governing bodies in accordance with section 4.1-230 of the Code of Virginia.

Held: Upon receipt of an application for a limited brewery license, the Bureau of Law Enforcement's Compliance Unit will contact the applicant to ascertain what areas on the farm are desired to be included as part of the licensed premises. This information will be provided to the local governing body of the locality in which the limited brewery will be located as part of the initial notice provided to that locality. This process will comply with the requirements of Section 4.1-230 which mandates that the Board notify the local governing body that an application for an ABC license has been received for an establishment in that locality and Section 4.1-208 (2) where the applicant desires to have growing areas that are noncontiguous to the brewery included as part of the licensed premises.

The required notice to localities of the receipt of an application for an ABC license and a description of the desired licensed premises will be provided for one thirty day period during which local officials will have the opportunity to voice any objections to the issuance of the license.

Throughout this process, the Board will continue to have authority and discretion over the approval of the extent of the licensed premises pursuant to §4.1-208.

Should you have any questions regarding the process regarding applications for limited brewery license please contact your assigned Compliance Senior Special Agent or compliance@abc.virginia.gov

Travis G. Hill
Chief Operating Officer/Secretary to the Board