News Release

Oregon Liquor Control Commission
9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Portland, OR 97222-7355
1-800-452-6522

For more information:
Matthew Van Sickle, Public Affairs Specialist
matt.vansickle@oregon.gov, (503) 872-5002
www.oregon.gov/olcc

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Returns of Product Allowed Due to Event Cancellation

Holders of Special Event or Temporary Sales Licensees Eligible for Returns

PORTLAND, OR. – Effective immediately, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission will allow the return of unused, unopened malt beverages, wine, cider and distilled liquor purchased for events that are canceled or will pass their sell-by date on or before April 17 due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

On March 16, 2020, Governor Brown issued an order cancelling all events and gatherings larger than 25 people in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. The Governor also restricted restaurants, bars and other establishments that offer food or beverages from offering on-premises consumption.

The return privilege is available to holders of either a Temporary Sales license (TSL) or Special Event license issued by the Commission. The path for return varies upon product type.

For Malt Beverages, Wine, and Cider

- Suppliers may accept returns of any unused malt beverages, wine or cider from retailers holding a special event license that has been cancelled.
- Although OLCC is permitting returns, alcohol suppliers are not required to accept returns of such products. Alcohol suppliers may give credit or cash for returned product.

Additionally, suppliers of malt beverages, wine or cider may accept returns of unused alcoholic beverages that will pass their sell-by date on or before April 17, 2020 from annual license holders.

For Distilled Liquor

- A Retail Liquor Store may accept the product under the following circumstances:
    - The container(s) must be unopened.
    - The container must be returned to the store at which it was purchased.
    - The product must be currently listed by OLCC. Product that is delisted or closed out will not be accepted.
    - Containers with labels that are old, faded, or defaced will not be accepted.
    - The container will not be accepted if the retail sales agent or employee determines that the container has been tampered with.
    - The return must be accompanied by the receipt. Containers listed on the current receipt may be returned up to 30 days after the event cancellation.
    - Only holders of a Temporary Sales License (TSL) are eligible for returns.

Given the unexpected and widespread nature of the concerns involving COVID-19, OLCC will not consider returns of alcohol beverage products purchased to sell at cancelled events to violate state financial assistance laws.

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