

Dear Licensee:

Once again, it is the time of the year when our favorite college teams get ready to kick off the football season in the great State of Alabama. Tickets are purchased, tailgate party invitations are sent and alcohol is on many shopping lists.

Though we may all cheer for different teams, we can all certainly agree to work together to promote responsible consumption of alcohol. Every member of the "team" from suppliers, brokers, and retailers to Alabama ABC Board employees, plays an important role in the battle against abuse and misuse of alcohol products. We share the common goal of eliminating under-age drinking and drunk driving.

Just a friendly reminder that license/permit renewals are due by July 31. If not renewed by September 30, the licenses/permits will expire. If you have questions about renewing a license or permit, you may contact your division office (<https://alabcboard.gov/licensing-compliance/divisions>) or call our the ABC Board Central Office at 334-213-6300. All license and permit holders are reminded to regularly review the laws and rules in Title 28, Code of Alabama, 1975 and ABC Rules and Regulations, which may change from time to time. These are available at [www.alabcboard.gov](http://www.alabcboard.gov) under the "Legal" heading.

Manufacturers are required to obtain a permit from their local health department. This is an existing Health Department requirement, and the permits will be verified when the ABC manufacturing license is issued. If you have not already done so, please submit your food permit to [abcboard-enforcement@abc.alabama.gov](mailto:abcboard-enforcement@abc.alabama.gov)

In legislative news, Section 28-11-20 Code of Alabama has passed, relating to tobacco. Section 28-11-20 provides for the suspension or revocation of tobacco permits of tobacco retailers who fail to pay distributors for an invoiced purchase of tobacco, tobacco products, electronic nicotine delivery systems, or alternative nicotine products; and to provide for the reinstatement of tobacco permits in certain circumstances. As required, the Alabama ABC Board has adopted Rule 20-X-28-.01 of the Alabama ABC Board Rules and Regulations, to implement this provision.

ABC offers an online merchant education program and other resources for permittees who sell tobacco, alternative nicotine, and electronic nicotine delivery systems. The Tobacco and Nicotine page was recently updated and may be found on our website at [www.alabcboard.gov](http://www.alabcboard.gov) under the "Licensing and Compliance" heading.

Tequila and Prepared Cocktails continue to drive the largest growth in the state. We have expanded the assortments in these categories to meet current consumer demand and will continue to do so as products become available. There is more growth to come from these categories, as we continue to look at more ways of expanding these segments.

In a final note, ABC underwent an audit by the State of Alabama Examiners of Public Accounts spring 2023. The report stated there were no significant findings to report and was sent to the Sunset Review Committee of the State of Alabama Legislature.

We at the ABC hope everyone has a safe and prosperous summer and fall business season.

Sincerely,

Curtis E. Stewart