

Date: July 20, 2021

To: All Licensees
All LCRB Staff
All Industry Associations
All Local governments, Indigenous Nations and Police agencies

Re: Authorization for breweries to use their establishments to manufacture malt-based and/or sugar-based hard seltzer

General Manager Authority

Under Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation (LCLR), s. 30, the General Manager of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) may authorize licensed manufacturing establishments to be used for activities not otherwise authorized under the licence or the LCLR.

New Policy

A term and condition has been added to the Manufacturer Terms & Conditions Handbook that clarifies breweries are authorized to use their facilities to manufacture malt-based and/or sugar-based hard seltzer.

Malt-based and/or sugar based hard seltzer will continue to be classified as refreshment beverages by the Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) and are subject to the associated mark-up and direct delivery restrictions.

Please note, this authorization is limited to the use of the establishment for manufacturing malt-based and/or sugar-based hard seltzer and does not relieve the licensee from other requirements or obligations that may be necessary for the manufacture of these products.

This term and condition applies to all breweries. Licensees do not need to apply for the authorization.

This does not affect the manufacture of spirits-based hard seltzer. Applicants intending to manufacture spirits-based hard seltzer should continue to apply for a distillery licence.

Explanation

This change has been implemented to support manufacturers that want to participate in the hard-seltzer market.

Further Information

Further information regarding liquor and cannabis regulation and licensing in British Columbia is available on the LCRB website at

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/liquorregulationandlicensing>

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the LCRB toll free in Canada at 1-866-209-2111 or 250 952-5787 if calling from the Victoria area.

Disclaimer

This communication is intended to be used only for general informational purposes and may not apply to all situations. This communication does not constitute legal advice nor is it a comprehensive statement of the legal obligations that arise under the Liquor Control and Licensing Act, regulations, or any other applicable laws. When interpreting and applying the information contained in this communication, you are encouraged to seek specific advice from your professional advisors as appropriate in the circumstances.

Original signed by

Mary Sue Maloughney
Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch