

Comparison of Beer Permits

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Issue

Provide a comparison of the different beer permits in the state.

Summary

By law, an alcohol permit is required to brew and sell beer in Connecticut. The state currently issues five such alcohol permits: manufacturer permit, manufacturer permit for beer, manufacturer permit for brewpub, manufacturer permit for beer and brewpub, and manufacturer permit for a farm brewery.

A manufacturer permit costs \$1,850 and allows the permittee to, among other things, produce all types of alcohol (e.g., liquor, wine, and beer). The other four permits allow permittees to brew beer but not other types of alcohol. The permit fees for these four permits range from \$300 to \$1,500 annually. The Department of Consumer Protection is the agency responsible for issuing permits. Table 1 provides a comparison of the permits.

Table 1: Comparison of Different Beer Permits

Authorized Activity	Manufacturer Permit (CGS § 30-16(a))	Manufacturer Permit for Beer (CGS § 30-16(b))	Manufacturer Permit for Brewpub (CGS § 30-16(g) as amended by PA 17-160)	Manufacturer Permit for Beer and Brewpub (CGS § 30-16(h) as amended by PA 17-160)	Manufacturer Permit for a Farm Brewery (CGS § 30-16(f) as amended by PA 17-160)
Annual Permit Fee	\$1,850	\$1,000	\$300	\$1,500	\$300
Production limits	No	No	No maximum, but must produce at least 5,000 gallons on the premises annually	No maximum, but must produce at least 5,000 gallons on the premises annually	Yes, up to 75,000 gallons annually
Sell product directly to retailer (self-distribute)	Yes, for permittees that sell less than 10,000 gallons	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offer tastings of free samples	Yes, up to two ounces per customer per day	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sell alcohol for on-premises consumption	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sell alcohol for off-premises consumption	Yes. Permittees that produce less than 25,000 gallons may sell up to 1.5 liters per customer per day, up to five gallons in any two-month period	Yes, up to nine liters per customer per day	Yes, up to nine liters per customer per day	Yes, up to nine liters per customer per day	Yes, up to nine liters per customer per day
Sell at farmers' market	No	Yes, but must also obtain farmers' market beer sales permit	Yes, but must also obtain farmers' market beer sales permit	Yes, but must also obtain farmers' market beer sales permit	Yes, but must also obtain farmers' market beer sales permit
Ingredient requirements	No	No	No	No	Yes, at least 25% must be in-state ingredients for first year, 50% thereafter

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