

## Connecticut Craft Cafe Permit

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### Issue

Summarize what is allowed under and the requirements for a Connecticut craft cafe permit.

### Summary

The Connecticut craft cafe permit allows manufacturer permittees to sell other Connecticut manufactured alcohol for on-premises consumption. But the permittee is generally prohibited from selling the same type of alcoholic liquor he or she manufactures (e.g., a Connecticut manufacturer for beer cannot sell another Connecticut manufacturer's beer) ([CGS § 30-22d](#), as amended by [PA 23-103](#), § 4). The permit's annual fee is \$300.

A "craft cafe" means space in a suitable and permanent building that is kept, used, maintained, advertised, and held out to the public to be a place where alcoholic liquor and food is served for sale at retail for on-premises consumption, but not necessarily hot meals. The craft cafe must have an adequate number of employees. It does not include facilities with public sleeping accommodations and a does not need to have a kitchen or dining room.

Permittees must (1) have food available during a majority of the hours alcohol is sold and consumed and (2) comply with all local health department regulations. With prior Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) approval, a permittee may serve alcoholic liquor in outside areas.

Finally, permittees may sell, up to nine gallons a day, sealed containers of draught beer for off-premises consumption (i.e., growlers). These sales are only allowed during the hours allowed for off-premises sales.

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## *Allowable Products*

The law allows a craft cafe permittee to purchase alcoholic liquor for resale from manufacturer permittees for spirits; beer; farm winery; and wine, cider, and mead, or from a wholesaler permittee with distribution rights to such alcohol. With the exception of beer collaborations (see below), the permittee must not purchase the same type of alcoholic liquor he or she manufactures. Additionally, the on-premises alcoholic liquor sales from others' products must not be more than 20% of the permittee's gross annual on-premises consumption sales.

The law allows a Connecticut craft cafe permittee who is also a manufacturer permittee for beer to sell at retail beer brewed in collaboration with another beer manufacturer for on- or off-premises consumption. Craft cafe permittees may do so only if they sell one brand of the collaboratively produced beer from their premises at a time. A "collaboration" is an arrangement, other than contract brewing or an alternating proprietorship, where a beer manufacturer works with at least one other beer manufacturer by, among other things, sharing the beer recipe or at least 49% of the ingredients or labor needed to manufacture the beer.

## *Food Requirement*

The law requires the permittee to keep food available for sale and consumption by customers during a majority of the hours the permittee's premises is open. The availability of food from outside vendors that are located on or near the premises is deemed to comply with this requirement, if it is available by delivery.

The law specifies that it must not be construed to require any food to be sold or purchased with alcoholic liquor. It also prohibits any rule, regulation, or standard from being adopted or enforced requiring the sale of food to be substantial or that the business's receipts.

## *Hours*

The on-premises consumption is allowed between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. the next morning for Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. the next morning for Friday and Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. the next morning on Sunday ([CGS § 30-91\(a\)](#)).

## *Outside Areas*

A Connecticut craft cafe permit allows, with prior DCP approval, alcoholic liquor to be served at tables in outside areas if also permitted by fire, zoning, and health regulations. The law prohibits (1) DCP from requiring a fence or wall enclosing the outside area, unless it is required by fire, zoning, or

health regulations and (2) any fence or wall used to enclose the area from being less than 30 inches high.

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