Illinois Liquor Control Commission

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Filling of Growlers/Crowlers

September 5, 2019

To: All Illinois Brewers, Class 1 Brewers, Class 2 Brewers, Brew Pubs, and On-premises consumption Retailers

Public Act 101- 0517 allows on-premises retailers, brewers, class 1 brewers, class 2 brewers, and brew pubs, to fill growlers and crowlers. This law provides specific requirements on the cleaning, filling, and sealing of the growlers.

Frequently Asked Questions:

I am a class 1 brewer, can I pre-fill growlers?

Yes. You may fill growlers at any time; however, pre-filled growlers are considered

to be "bottles" by the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB). As such, these growlers would

be subject to the federal labeling requirements.

Is it required for me to clean a growler that is brought in by the patron?

Yes. Before filling the growler or crowler or refilling the growler, the on-premises retail licensee or licensee's employee shall clean and sanitize the growler or crowler.

I'm an on-premises consumption retailer, can I pre-fill growlers?

No. The language of this law requires you to only fill at the time of sale.

Can I sell a growler that has not been sealed?

No. This law requires that the growler be sealed with a one-time use, tamper-proof seal.

A customer that takes a growler without this type of seal and transports it in a vehicle,

could be subject to a charge of illegal transportation of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

I'm an on-premises retailer, do I have to label the growler?

Yes. The law requires that you place a label or tag which contains: 1) the brand name of the

product contained therein; 2) the name of the brewer or bottler; 3) the type of product, such as

beer, ale, lager, bock, stout; 4) the net contents; 5) the name and address of the licensee

that cleaned, sanitized, labeled, and filler or refilled the growler; and 6) the date the growler

was filled or refilled.