

FAQs: Beverage Alcohol Quality Assurance Policy for Direct Distribution by SK Craft Producers

Why does SLGA require Certificates of Analysis for SK craft liquor products?

SLGA and SK craft producers have a collective interest to ensure that craft liquor products available to SK consumers are safe for consumption. We also want to ensure that the strong reputation of Saskatchewan's craft liquor industry is maintained.

Does this policy apply to products that are sold through the SLGA Distribution Centre(DC)?

No, this policy only applies to products that are distributed directly by SK craft alcohol producers. For producers who distribute products through SLGA's DC, there is a separate quality assurance policy that applies:

<https://www.slga.com/-/media/slga/files/liquor/for%20suppliers/slga%20quality%20assurance%20policy.pdf?la=en>

Which products require a Certificate of Analysis?

For Current Craft Alcohol Producers:

A valid Certificate of Analysis must be provided to SLGA for a minimum of one active product from each alcohol product line (that is, beer, spirits, wine, refreshments), completed every 24 months.

- ➔ For example: If you only produce beer, then you only need to submit one CoA every 24 months. If you produce beer and spirits, you need to submit one CoA for beer and one CoA for spirits every 24 months.

For New Craft Alcohol Producers:

A valid CoA must be provided to SLGA for the first five distinct products produced by the Craft Alcohol Producer (for each product line) before each product can be sold.

- ➔ For example: If you are a new spirits producer and you start by producing a vodka product, you submit a CoA to SLGA and once you receive confirmation from SLGA, you can begin selling this vodka product. Two months later, you start producing a gin product, so you submit a CoA to SLGA and once you receive confirmation from SLGA, you can begin selling this gin product. Once you have submitted CoAs for five distinct products, you will then be considered a Current Craft Alcohol Producer, and need to meet those requirements.

As a new producer, can I begin selling after obtaining a Certificate of Analysis for my first product or do I have to wait until I have CoAs for all five products?

Once a new producer obtains an acceptable CoA for a product, they can begin selling that product (they do not need to submit all five CoAs before beginning to sell products).

What is the cost for a Certificate of Analysis?

The current approximate cost for a full Certificate of Analysis is \$250, subject to variability.

If I produce a new product, do I need to submit a Certificate of Analysis?

No, you don't need to submit a Certificate of Analysis for each new product, unless you're beginning to produce a new product line (that is, beer, spirits, wine, refreshments). In that case, you would need to abide by the policy requirements outlined for New Craft Alcohol Producers for the new product line.

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Which approved laboratories can provide Certificates of Analysis?

- Canadian Vintners Alliance (VQA)**;
- Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO);
- Société des alcools du Québec (SAQ);
- Independent laboratories* acceptable to SLGA.

*Independent laboratories are required to have a quality management system accredited to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard, and must be accredited in the analysis of alcoholic beverages and must conduct testing in compliance with the parameters established by LCBO's Quality Assurance Departments (reference LCBO Guidelines for Chemical Analysis).

**VQA certificates will be accepted only for VQA-certified products. Non-VQA products must be tested at a lab accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 standards.

What exactly are the laboratories testing?

Pages 52 & 53 of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario's Guidelines for Chemical Analysis Document outlines what the testing identifies:

https://www.doingbusinesswithlcbo.com/content/dbwl/en/basepage/home/quality-assurance/quality-assurance-policies---guidelines/labelling/-lcbo-product-packaging-standards-and-guidelines-for-chemical-an/ jcr_content/content1/attachments_copy_cop/file.res/PPS_EN.pdf

How do I submit Certificates of Analysis to SLGA?

Certificates of Analysis must be emailed to Craft@slga.gov.sk.ca.

What happens if my product fails a Certificate of Analysis?

It depends on the seriousness of the failure, but will likely result in a product recall and sales of the product being suspended. Until an acceptable Certificate of Analysis is provided, sales of the product will not be allowed. Producers should have appropriate batch processes in place to limit risk in this area.