

# **Beverage Alcohol Quality Assurance Policy for** **Direct Distribution by Craft Producers**

Effective August 16, 2019

# Policy

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Effective August 16, 2019, Craft Alcohol Producers who directly distribute products in Saskatchewan are required to abide by the following:

- **For Current Craft Alcohol Producers:** A valid Certificate of Analysis (CoA) 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 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.
  - SLGA will review the CoA to confirm compliance and then provide the New Craft Alcohol Producer with written authorization to begin selling that product.
  - The New Craft Alcohol Producer does not need to submit all five CoAs before beginning to sell products that have been authorized by SLGA for sale.
  - Once these requirements are met, the producer will then need to meet the requirements outlined above for Current Craft Alcohol Producers.

## Policy Clarification

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- Craft Alcohol Producers who also distribute product through the SLGA Distribution Centre (DC), will have submitted a valid CoA to SLGA for each product, so this is considered acceptable towards these requirements.
- Craft Alcohol Producers are required to submit the CoA laboratory application, along with the anticipated Alcohol by Volume (ABV) to SLGA for the product sent away for laboratory testing, prior to the Craft Alcohol Producer obtaining and submitting the results of the CoA to SLGA.
- The Craft Alcohol Producer cannot submit a CoA for the same product every 24 months to meet these requirements, unless it is the only product offered in that product line.
- For the purposes of these requirements, a distinct product is considered to contain different ingredients and/or alterations of the manufacturing process of the product. It cannot simply be a differently sized or labelled product.
- Current Craft Alcohol Producers who begin producing a new product line (that is, beer, spirits, wine, refreshments), must abide by the requirements outlined above for New Craft Alcohol Producers for the new product line.
- Current Craft Alcohol Producers who open a new manufacturing facility (thus requiring a new manufacturers permit), must abide by the requirements outlined above for New Craft Alcohol Producers. SLGA may in its sole discretion, waive some or all of the requirements.
  - When evaluating whether to waive some or all of these requirements, SLGA will assess based on information that may include:
    - i. Changes to manufacturing processes between the old and new facilities;
    - ii. Changes to ownership and staff;
    - iii. History of regulatory compliance;
    - iv. History of CoAs submitted to SLGA;
    - v. Quality assurance protocols in place at the new facility; and
    - vi. Any other information determined to be relevant.

## Timeframe for Submission

- SLGA will remind Craft Alcohol Producers three months prior to the expiry of the CoA on file, but Craft Alcohol Producers are responsible for ensuring SLGA has a valid CoA on file.

## Alcohol by Volume (ABV) & Chemical Tolerances

- Craft Alcohol Producers must ensure that their products adhere to the Canadian standard of Alcohol by Volume (ABV) tolerances outlined by the Canadian Association of Liquor Jurisdictions (CALJ)

### The CALJ Alcohol by Volume (ABV) tolerances are:

Table Wine:	± 1.0% for all table wines regardless of alcohol content
Fortified Wine (e.g., Ports, Sherries):	± 0.5%
Cider:	± 0.5% for declared alcohol in the range of 2.5% to 5.5% ± 1.0% for declared alcohol in the range of 5.6% to 13.0%
Beer:	± 0.5% for declared alcohol in the range of up to 5.5% ± 1.0% for declared alcohol of 5.6% or greater
Spirits:	± 0.3%
Miscellaneous products (e.g. coolers, ready-to-drink):	± 0.5%

- For non-standardized products (e.g. sake, miscellaneous liquors), the ABV tolerance is ± 0.5%.
- For spirits containing macerated/parts of fruit or plants, the ABV tolerance is ± 1.5%.
- The LCBO Guidelines for Chemical Analysis document outlines the chemicals that are tested when Craft Alcohol Producers submit products for a Certificate of Analysis (CoA). The document also specifies the maximum concentration allowed for each chemical, which is Canadian industry-standard. The LCBO document is available at the following link: <http://www.doingbusinesswithlcbo.com/tro/Packaging-Quality/ProductPackagingStandards.shtml>

## Acceptable Laboratories

- A CoA from one of the following sources is acceptable:
  - Canadian Vintners Alliance (VQA)\*\*;
  - Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO);
  - Société des alcools du Québec (SAQ);
  - Independent laboratories\* (pre-approval required from SLGA),
  - Prairie Tide Analytics

\*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.

- CoAs must be presented in English.
- CoAs must be emailed to [skcraft@slga.com](mailto:skcraft@slga.com).

## Cost of Testing & Additional Testing

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- The cost for testing beverage alcohol products and/or obtaining a CoA is the responsibility of the Craft Alcohol Producer.
- SLGA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to test samples of beverage alcohol products at any time. If the product fails the SLGA-initiated testing for any reason, SLGA reserves the right to charge the cost of the testing and all related shipping fees directly to the Craft Alcohol Producer.

## Revision History

### September 2020

- Added language clarifying SLGA to review CoA's for a new producer and confirming when they can begin selling the product
- Added language clarifying that a new producer does not need to submit all five CoA's prior to selling product that has been authorized by SLGA
- Added requirement for the producer to submit the laboratory application
- Removed language from 'Timeframe for Submission' section
- Added alcohol by volume and chemical tolerances section
- Added language clarifying pre-approval required for independent laboratories
- Revised CoA submission email address