

Beverage Alcohol Quality Assurance Policy for Direct Distribution by Craft Producers

Effective August 16, 2019

Policy

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. Once these requirements are met, the producer will then need to meet the requirements outlined above for Current Craft Alcohol Producers.

Policy Clarification

- 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.
- 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 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

- All Current Craft Alcohol Producers will have until October 31, 2019 to submit a valid CoA to SLGA.
- 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.

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* 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.

- CoAs must be presented in English.
- CoAs must be emailed to Craft@slga.gov.sk.ca.

Cost of Testing & Additional Testing

- 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.