

ALABAMA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 20-X-2  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

20-X-2-.01	Glossary Of Terms
20-X-2-.02	Possession Of ABC Board Regulations On Licensed Premises
20-X-2-.03	Violations
20-X-2-.04	Claims From Law Officers For Fees
20-X-2-.05	Public Petition For Rule Modification

**20-X-2-.01**     Glossary Of Terms.   The following words or phrases, whenever they appear in regulations 20-X-2 through 20-X-19, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, shall have the meaning ascribed to them as follows:

(1)           Alcoholic Beverages.   Any alcoholic, spirituous, vinous, fermented or other alcoholic beverage, or combination of liquors and mixed liquor, a part of which is spirituous, vinous, fermented or otherwise alcoholic, and all drinks or drinkable liquids, preparations or mixtures intended for beverage purposes, which contain one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume, and shall include liquor, beer, and wine, both fortified and table wine.

(2)           Association.   A partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company or any form of unincorporated enterprise owned by two or more persons.

(3)           Beer, or Malt or Brewed Beverages.   Any beer, lager beer, ale, porter, malt or brewed beverage or similar fermented malt liquor containing one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume and not in excess of five percent alcohol by weight and six percent by volume, by whatever name the same may be called.

(4)           Board.   The Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

(5)           Brandy.   All beverages which are an alcoholic distillate from the fermented juice, mash, or wine of fruit, or from the residue thereof, produced in such manner that the

distillate possesses the taste, aroma, and characteristics generally attributed to the beverage, as bottled at not less than 80 degree proof.

(6) Carton. The package, container or containers in which alcoholic beverages are originally packaged for shipment to market by the manufacturer, its designated representatives or the importer.

(7) Cash. Any United States legal tender currency, credit card, check, guaranteed check, electronic funds transfer, postal money order and/or state warrant.

(8) Church. Church shall mean an entire house or structure set apart primarily for use for purposes of public worship, and whose sanctuary is tax exempt under the laws of this state, and in which religious services are held and with which a clergyman is associated, and the entire structure is kept for that use and not put to any other use inconsistent therewith.

(9) (a) Club. Class I. A corporation or association organized or formed in good faith by authority of law and which must have at least 150 paid-up members. It must be the owner, lessee or occupant of an establishment operated solely for the objects of a national, social, patriotic, political or athletic nature or the like, but not for pecuniary gain, and the property as well as the advantages of which, belong to all the members and which maintains an establishment provided with special space and accommodations where, in consideration of payment, food with or without lodging is habitually served. The club shall hold regular meetings, continue its business through officers regularly elected, admit members by written application, investigation and ballot and charge and collect dues from elected members.

(b) Class II. A corporation or association organized or formed in good faith by authority of law and which must have at least 100 paid-up members. It must be the owner, lessee or occupant of an establishment operated solely for the objects of a national, social, patriotic, political or athletic nature or the like. The club shall hold regular meetings, continue its business through officers regularly elected, admit members by written application, investigation and ballot and charge and collect dues from elected members.

(10) Corporation. A corporation or joint stock association organized under the laws of this state, territory or foreign country, or dependency.

(11) Dry County. Any county which by a majority of those voting voted in the negative in an election heretofore held under the applicable statutes at the time of said election or may hereafter vote in the negative in an election or special method referendum hereafter held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2, Title 28, or held in accordance with the provisions of any act hereafter enacted permitting such election.

(12) Dry Municipality. Any municipality within a wet county which has, by its governing body or by a majority of those voting in a municipal election heretofore held in accordance with the provisions of Section 28-2-22, or in a municipal option election heretofore or hereafter held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2A, Title 28, Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, or any act hereafter enacted permitting municipal option election, voted to exclude the sale of alcoholic beverages within the corporate limits of said municipality.

(13) Fortified Wine Or Vinous Liquor. Any wine containing more than 14.9 percent alcohol by volume but not more than 24 percent, or such other percentages as may be designated by the Legislature of Alabama. Fortified wine is vinous liquor.

(14) General Welfare Purposes.

(a) The administration of public assistance as set out in Sections 38-2-5 and 38-4-1;

(b) Services, including supplementation and supplementary services under the federal Social Security Act, to or on behalf of persons to whom such public assistance may be given under said Sections 38-2-5 and 38-4-1;

(c) Service to and on behalf of dependent, neglected or delinquent children; and

(d) Investigative and referral services to and on behalf of needy persons.

(15) Hearing Commission. A body appointed by the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to hear and decide all contested license applications and all disciplinary charges against any licensee for violation of this title or the regulations of the Board.

(16) Hotel. A building or buildings held out to the public for housing accommodations of travelers or transients, and shall include motel and bed and breakfast, but shall not include a rooming house or boarding house.

(17) Importer. Any person, association or corporation engaged in importing alcoholic beverages, liquor, wine or beer, manufactured outside of the United States of America into this state or for the sale or distribution in this state, or to the Board or to a wholesale licensee of the Board authorized to receive such product.

(18) Industry Representative. A licensed manufacturer or any person who represents a licensed manufacturer of alcoholic beverages. This does not include a wholesale or retail licensee of the ABC Board.

(19) License. License shall mean a contract between the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and the licensee granting authority to said licensee to manufacture, sell, warehouse, distribute, or transport any alcoholic beverages in the manner provided by law.

(20) Licensed Premises. Any portion of the interior of any building or structure accessible to the public, employees, owners, licensees or agents of licensees, together with the curtilage thereof, and any living quarters contained therein.

(21) Licensee. Any person, corporation, association or partnership holding a valid and duly issued ABC Board license. Said terms shall include both masculine and feminine gender and shall include both singular and plural when appropriate.

(22) Liquor. Any alcoholic, spirituous, vinous, fermented, or other alcoholic beverage, or combination of liquors and mixed liquor, a part of which is spirituous, fermented, vinous or otherwise alcoholic, and all drinks and drinkable liquids, preparations or mixtures intended for beverage purposes, which contain one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume, except beer and table wine.

(23) Liquor Store. A liquor store operated by the ABC Board where alcoholic beverages other than beer are authorized to be sold in unopened containers.

(24) List Price. That wholesale and retail price established from time to time and printed in the price list issued by the ABC Board.

(25) Manufacturer. Any person, association or corporation engaged in the producing, bottling, manufacturing, distilling, rectifying or compounding of alcoholic beverages, liquor, beer or wine in this state or for sale or distribution in this state or to the ABC Board or to a licensee of the ABC Board.

(26) Meal. A diversified selection of food, some of which is not susceptible of being consumed in the absence of at least some articles of tableware and which cannot be conveniently consumed while one is standing or walking about.

(27) Minor. Any person under 21 years of age; provided, however, in the event Section 28-1-5, Code of Ala. 1975, shall be repealed or otherwise shall be no longer in effect, thereafter the provisions of Section 26-1-1, Code of Ala. 1975, shall govern.

(28) Municipality. Any incorporated city or town of this state, which shall include the police jurisdiction thereof.

(29) Organization. A group of persons, an association, or a corporation.

(30) Person. Every natural person, association or corporation. Whenever used in a clause prescribing or imposing a fine or imprisonment, or both, such term as applied to "association" shall mean the partners or members thereof and as applied to "corporation" shall mean the officers thereof, except as to incorporated clubs the term "person" shall mean such individual or individuals who, under the bylaws of such clubs, shall have jurisdiction over the possession and sale of alcoholic beverages therein.

(31) Population. The population according to the last preceding or any subsequent decennial census of the United States, except where a municipality is incorporated subsequent to the last census, in which event, its population until the next decennial census shall be the population of said municipality as determined by the judge of probate of said county as the official population on the date of its incorporation.

(32) Private Package Store/Private Liquor Store. Those lounge retail liquor licensees or club liquor retail licensees who declare to the ABC Board that their primary business shall be the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption and who further declare their compliance with Regulation 20-X-5-.12 herein.

(33) Restaurant. A reputable place licensed as a restaurant, operated by a responsible person of good reputation and habitually and principally used for the purpose of preparing and serving meals for the public to consume on the premises.

(34) Retailer. Any person licensed by the ABC Board to engage in the retail sale of any alcoholic beverages to the consumer.

(35) Sale Or Sell. Any transfer of liquor, wine or beer for a consideration, and any gift in connection with, or as a part of, a transfer of property other than liquor, wine or beer for a consideration. These terms shall include any exchange, barter or trafficking of alcoholic beverages.

(36) Selling Price. The total marked-up price of spirituous or vinous liquors sold by the ABC Board, exclusive of taxes levied thereon.

(37) School. School shall include buildings used for the purpose of imparting instruction to children in Grades K-12, when provided by a public, private, denominational, and parochial school, except those buildings used primarily for adult education or college extension courses. School does not include a proprietary trade or occupational school.

(38) Table Wine. Any wine containing not more than 14.9 percent alcohol by volume or such other percentages as may be designated by the Legislature of Alabama. Table wine is not liquor, spirituous or vinous.

(39) Unopened Container. A container containing alcoholic beverages, which has not been opened or unsealed subsequent to filling and sealing by the manufacturer or importer.

(40) Vehicle. Shall mean any means of transportation by land, water or by air.

(41) Wet County. Any county which by a majority of those voting voted in the affirmative in an election heretofore held in accordance with the statutes applicable at the time of said election or may hereafter vote in the affirmative in an election or special method referendum held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 28, or other statutes applicable at the time of said election.

(42) Wet Municipality. Any municipality in a dry county which by a majority of those voting voted in the affirmative in a municipal option election heretofore or hereafter held in accordance with the provisions of Act 84-408, Acts of Alabama 1984, appearing as Chapter 2A, Title 28, as amended, or any act hereafter enacted permitting municipal option election, or any municipality which became wet by vote of the governing body or by the voters of the municipality heretofore or hereafter held under the special method referendum provisions of Section 28-2-22, or as hereafter provided, where the county has

become dry subsequent to the elected wet status of the municipality.

(43) Wholesaler. Any person licensed by the ABC Board to engage in the sale and distribution of table wine and beer, or either of them, within this state, at wholesale only, to be sold for export or to retail licensees or other wholesale licensees or others within this state lawfully authorized to sell table wine and beer, or either of them, for the purpose of resale only.

(44) Wine. All beverages made from the fermentation of fruits, berries, or grapes, with or without added spirits, and produced in accordance with the laws and regulations of the United States, containing not more than 24 percent alcohol by volume, and shall include all sparkling wines, carbonated wines, special natural wines, rectified wines, vermouths, vinous beverages, vinous liquors, and like products.

**Author:** ABC Board

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §38-3-1, 28-3-49, 28-7-3.

**History: Repealed and New:** August 21, 1998; effective October 16, 1998.

**20-X-2-.02** Possession Of ABC Board Regulations On Licensed Premises. Each ABC Board licensee is urged to maintain a current copy of the ABC Board's Rules and Regulations at each licensed establishment and shall be responsible for the content thereof.

**Author:** ABC Board

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §28-3-49.

**History: Repealed and New:** Filed August 21, 1998; effective October 16, 1998.

**20-X-2-.03** Violations.

(1) Any violation of any statute or law of the State of Alabama pertaining to alcoholic beverages, or of any regulation of the ABC Board, by any licensee, officer, agent, servant or employee of such licensee, shall subject such licensee to any one of the following discretionary actions or penalties by the ABC Board or its Hearing Commission:

- (a) Verbal or written reprimand;
- (b) Suspension of the alcoholic beverage license;
- (c) Revocation of the alcoholic beverage license;

(d) Fine not to exceed \$1,000.00.

(2) Each occurrence shall constitute a separate violation for which any of the above-mentioned penalties may be imposed.

(3) Any violation of a municipal ordinance or a local act of the legislature may also subject a licensee to the foregoing action.

(4) The ABC Board may, from time to time, establish a fine schedule for violations charged against a licensee. This fine schedule will be used when a licensee wishes to plead guilty to a first or second offense.

(5) When a licensee has been cited for a violation, the licensee may elect to waive a hearing before the Hearing Commission and/or the ABC Board and enter a plea of guilty to such violation. If a fine is imposed upon said guilty plea, the licensee shall remit the full amount thereof to the ABC Board by cashier's or certified check or money order within seven (7) days after the entry of such guilty plea or, in the event responsible vendor mitigation has been sought, then within seven (7) days after notification of the action of the mitigation committee. Failure to so remit said fine within the seven-day period shall subject the licensee to an automatic license suspension, commencing immediately without any appeal thereof, until such fine is paid to the Administrator and the licensee has received from the Administrator a letter of reinstatement of the license together with the license, itself.

(6) After the imposition of a fine by the Hearing Commission and/or the ABC Board, a licensee shall not be authorized to relinquish or surrender the license in lieu of payment of the fine. When a fine has been adjudged and all appeals exhausted, the said fine shall become a debt of the licensee in favor of the ABC Board.

(7) When a fine is imposed upon a licensee by the Hearing Commission and/or ABC Board and no appeal is taken therefrom within the appropriate time limitations, the fine so imposed shall be remitted in full by said licensee to the ABC Board by cashier's or certified check or money order within seven (7) days after the last day upon which said appeal could have been taken. Failure to so remit said fine within the seven-day period shall subject the licensee to an automatic license suspension, commencing immediately without any appeal thereof, until such fine is paid to the Administrator and the licensee has

received from the Administrator a letter reinstatement of the license, together with the license, itself.

**Author:** ABC Board

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§28-3-49; 28-3A-24.

**History: Repealed and New:** Filed August 21, 1998; effective October 16, 1998. **Amended:** Filed July 20, 2000; effective August 24, 2000.

**20-X-2-.04**      **Claims From Law Officers For Fees.** No claims for reward as allowed by Section 28-4-25, Code of Ala. 1975, will be honored or paid by the Alabama ABC Board unless the certificate required in said statute be properly issued by a judge and filed with the ABC Board within 45 days from the date of the conviction for which the reward is sought, and if an appeal is taken from said conviction, then 30 days from the date said conviction is upheld or affirmed by the Appellate Court.

**Author:** ABC Board

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§28-3-49; 28-4-25.

**History: Repealed and New:** Filed August 21, 1998; effective October 16, 1998.

**20-X-2-.05**      **Public Petition For Rule Modification.**

(1) Any interested person wishing to request that the ABC Board adopt, amend or repeal a rule or regulation may do so by submitting a written request in duplicate to the Administrative Procedures Secretary of the ABC Board, P.O. Box 1151, Montgomery, Alabama 36101. The petition shall be deemed to be submitted upon receipt.

(2) The petition shall be submitted to the ABC Board for its consideration and majority rule shall govern the disposition thereof. The petitioner shall be notified in writing of the disposition of the petition. If the petition is denied, the reason(s) therefore shall be stated.

(3) The petition shall contain:

(a) The petitioner's name;

(b) The relief sought (i.e., adoption, amendment or repeal);

(c) The facts necessary to an understanding of the request; and

(d) The petitioner's reasons in support of the request.

(4) Supportive documents and affidavits may be filed with the request.

**Author:** ABC Board

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §28-3-49.

**History: Repealed and New:** Filed August 21, 1998; effective October 16, 1998.