

BULLETIN



Comptroller of the Treasury ● Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division ● Goldstein Treasury Building ● P.O. Box 2999
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August 1, 1994

TO: Boards of License Commissioners, Beer Wholesalers and Off-premise Retailers

SUBJECT: Beer Keg Registration

The 1994 session of the Maryland General Assembly enacted House Bill 110 which was signed into law by the governor, and becomes effective October 1, 1994.

This bill requires that any container of beer with a capacity of at least four gallons must have a keg registration form affixed to the keg at the time of purchase from a retail dealer. The bill sets forth certain responsibilities on the comptroller, the local boards of license commissioners and retail dealers.

Responsibility of Comptroller

The comptroller is charged with approving and distributing the actual blank keg registration forms. On or about August 15, 1994, keg registration booklets will be available from the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division. Each booklet will contain 25 forms. Order forms will be provided to the local liquor boards and may be available from participating beer wholesalers who have agreed to assist in providing the initial order form. An order form can also be obtained by contacting the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division. Additional booklets may be ordered as needed.

Responsibility of Local Boards of License Commissioners

Each board of license commissioners is required under the bill to adopt regulations to implement this new law. Therefore, primary enforcement responsibility rests with the local liquor board.

Responsibility of Retail Licensees

Each retail dealer who engages in the off-premise sale of beer kegs is responsible for complying with the new law. The retailer's responsibilities include:

1. Obtain blank keg registration booklets from the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division in sufficient quantities needed.
2. Require identification to assure the purchaser is at least 21 years of age.
3. Complete part A of the registration form and have the purchaser complete and sign part B.
4. Affix the completed registration decal on the keg at the time of purchase.
5. Remove the registration decal from the keg upon its return from the purchaser and before the keg is returned to the beer wholesaler.
6. Retain the completed keg registration booklet on the license premises for at least 30 days.
7. Under the law retailers are authorized, but not required, to charge the purchaser a fee to cover administrative and processing expenses.

Questions pertaining to obtaining keg registration booklets should be directed to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division. Questions pertaining to the enforcement of the new law should be directed to board of license commissioners in each respective jurisdiction.

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Director
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division

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