

ILCC NEWS

WWW.ILCC.ILLINOIS.GOV

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Industry Education Director

Nicole Sanders - Editor



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“The Illinois Liquor Control Commission aims to be a resource to the public and our licensees. It is my goal to ensure that the level of service and the information provided by the ILCC is always exceptional, relevant and timely.”

*Executive Director
Lisa Gardner*

ILCC Mission Statement

“To protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Illinois through careful control, education, manufacture , distribution, and sale of alcoholic liquors and the development of strategies to reduce drunk driving and youth access to alcohol products.”

The ILCC Is Preparing For The Launch of The Illinois Liquor Control Compliance Portal



Illinois Liquor Control Commission

Starting
2026

Illinois Liquor Control & Compliance Portal

We're going
100%
paperless in 2026

How does this effect you?

- ✓ You will have to setup a new account to access the ILCC portal.
- ✓ You will not be able to apply for a liquor license in person, by mail or via email.
- ✓ All applications will need to be completed and submitted electronically.
- ✓ All tax inquiries must be sent directly to the Illinois Department of Revenue.

More Information

 www.ilcc.illinois.gov



Why are we upgrading?

- ✓ More efficient process
- ✓ Quicker application approvals
- ✓ Environmentally friendly

ILCC Friendly Reminder

Running a business can be a lot of work. Don't let the worry of paperwork add to the stress. Plan ahead to avoid the stress.



What's New

All BASSET professionals interested in staying informed and up to date on new rules, laws and changes pertaining to alcohol in Illinois, should subscribe on our website to receive the ILCC newsletter and BASSET Bulletin.

Follow Us Today!



ILCC Friendly Reminder

ILCC correspondences are available via your MyTax Illinois account. You can follow up on the status of your license renewals and new license application requests via your MyTax Illinois account. Below is the link regarding instructions on how to print your licenses online.

<https://mytax.illinois.gov/#0>

A preview of the BASSET BULLETIN newsletter. The header features a cartoon illustration of a dog in a suit and top hat, holding a glass, with the text "BASSET BULLETIN" in large, stylized letters. Below the header, there are several sections: "BASSET Requirements" with a list of requirements, "Top Titles" with a list of topics, "FAQ's" with questions and answers, and "Did You Know?" with a fact about the BASSET program. The newsletter also includes a "DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR BASSET CARD EXPIRATION DATE" section with a calendar and a "Upcoming Classes" section with a link to the ILCC website. The footer includes the ILCC logo and the email address ILCC.BASSET@illinois.gov.

Is Your BASSET Card Current?

Uncertified BASSET staff is one of the top five compliance violations the ILCC Enforcement Division finds when inspecting liquor licensed establishments. In the State of Illinois, every seller, server, bartender of open alcoholic beverages and cocktail delivery and security personnel must be BASSET certified. Furthermore, local laws may require additional BASSET certifications. So, why are licensees still getting this \$100 fine? Your guess is as good as ours. BASSET has been mandatory since 2018 in Illinois. We have well over 100 trainers that provide in-person and online training. In order to help avoid this unnecessary fine, we will continue sending out a monthly expiration reminder. The ILCC will resume in-person BASSET training this year in our Chicago and Springfield offices. The spots are limited so subscribe on our website so you get the “Register Now” email.

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR BASSET CARD EXPIRATION DATE.

IF YOU RECEIVED YOUR BASSET CERTIFICATION IN 2022, YOUR CERTIFICATION WILL EXPIRE IN 2025.

Certifications issued

January 2022	EXPIRED
February 2022	EXPIRED
March 2022	EXPIRED
April 2022	EXPIRED
May 2022	EXPIRED
June 2022	EXPIRED
July 2022	EXPIRED
August 2022	EXPIRED
September 2022	EXPIRED
October 2022	EXPIRED
November 2022	EXPIRED
December 2022	





Who Must Be BASSET Certified

- Managers
- Bartenders
- Sellers
- Servers (Not-for-Profit Special Event servers are not required to be BASSET certified. Special Use servers are.)
- Security

Quick Tips

- You have 120 days from your hire date to obtain your certification.
- BASSET certification is valid for 3 years after issuance.
- You can search for your BASSET ID # online.
- It may take up to 30 - 45 days for your BASSET card to be available online.
- If you need to update your information, you must reach out to your trainer to make the required changes.



Would You Drink It? If Not, Why Serve It?



During every inspection, one of the key focus areas is the condition of taps and hoses. ILCC Enforcement agents review many items, but you might be surprised at what they often find when checking taps and hoses. To remain compliant, licensees must clean their taps and hoses regularly to prevent the buildup of bacteria, mold, and other microorganisms that can grow inside them.



Dirty Taps Can Cause a Lot of Health

Risks:

Bacterial Growth

Dirty taps can harbor harmful bacteria such as E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria, which may contaminate beverages and cause foodborne illness.

Mold and Yeast Contamination

Beer lines and taps that aren't cleaned regularly often develop mold and wild yeast, which can cause off-flavors and health concerns for consumers with sensitivities.



Biofilm Formation

A sticky layer of microorganisms (biofilm) builds up inside unclean taps and lines. This biofilm is resistant to normal rinsing and can continually contaminate drinks.



Photo Description: Photo of impacted particles retrieved from the lines connected to taps.



The Importance of Sanitation

Since we are on the subject of cleanliness, Did you know that fruit flies thrive in environments with presence of fermenting fruits, vegetables, or other organic matter.

Prevention Checklist:

- Clean spills immediately
- Store produce properly
- Empty bins regularly
- Clean drains frequently
- Rinse recyclables
- Keep cleaning tools dry
- Inspect deliveries closely



Photo Description: Photo of alcohol bartenders were using to mix drinks. Each bottle had unidentifiable sediment at the bottom.



Illinois Cleaning Rules & Requirements



ILL. Admin. Code Tit. 11, §100.160(b)(1)

Disclaimer: Please consult with professional health inspectors to ensure compliance with State and local health requirements.

New Cease And Desist Notice

Starting December 1, 2025, establishments found to be operating without a license, may be subject to receive a cease and desist notice at their location until the matter is resolved.



**NEW
NOTICE**



Illinois Liquor Control Commission

NOTICE

No Alcohol Sales Allowed

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission ("ILCC") has conducted an investigation and determined that _____ located at _____, Illinois is engaged in the unlicensed sale of alcoholic liquors in violation of the Illinois Liquor Control Act of 1934. No person or entity may engage in the sale of alcoholic liquors in Illinois unless licensed by the ILCC. Effective _____

Accordingly, you are hereby ordered pursuant to 235 ILCS 5/3-12(a)(5.1) and 235 ILCS 5/10-1(a) to Cease and Desist from engaging in the sale of alcoholic liquors without a valid license. Failure to comply with this notice to Cease and Desist may subject you to civil penalties including a \$20,000 fine or criminal penalties including a Class 4 felony.

Tips On Best Practices

Has your establishment created House Rules, and are they clearly visible to everyone? If not, now is the time to develop them. House Rules help ensure consistency for both staff and customers, making it easier to resolve common issues fairly and effectively in establishments where alcohol is served. If you need support, we have a sample House Rule you can use as a reference.



WELCOME TO [YOUR BAR NAME]

We want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable time. Please respect our House Rules:

- 1 Valid ID Required**
We card everyone, no exceptions.
- 2 Drink Responsibly**
If you appear intoxicated, we cannot serve you.
- 3 Respect Others**
No harassment, fighting, or disruptive behavior.
- 4 No Outside Alcohol or Drugs**
Please keep it safe and clean.
- 5 Be Kind to Staff**
Zero tolerance for abusive or discriminatory language.
- 6 Management Reserves the Right to Refuse Service**
Safety comes first.

Thank you for helping us keep [Your Bar Name] fun, safe, and welcoming for all!

Suggested Staff Safety House Rules

- No drinking while working.
- Always Check IDs Properly.
- No Service to Intoxicated Guests
- Politely refuse service when necessary.
- Alert a manager or security if the patron becomes disruptive.
- De-Escalate, Don't Argue.
- Protect Yourself & Coworkers.
- No Tolerance for Harassment or Abuse.
- Practice Safe Handling of Alcohol & Equipment.
- Know Emergency Procedures.
- Respect Boundaries.



What You Need To Know About Shipping Alcohol

What's Legal:

An out-of-state manufacturer or importer, with an Illinois license, may ship to an importing distributor.

An out-of-state manufacturer with limited self-distribution privileges and an Illinois license from the ILCC may ship to an Illinois licensed store.

An out-of-state winery, with a winery shipper's license from the ILCC, may ship up to twelve cases of wine per year to an Illinois resident who is aged 21 and older.

Wine may be purchased from and shipped by a licensed manufacturer or importing distributor to an authorized representative of any church or bona fide religious organization for sacramental purposes.

Military members or Illinois residents, living outside of the United States for more than one year, may ship alcohol into Illinois with permission from the ILCC pursuant to Ill. Admin. Code Title 11, Section 100.480(b).

An individual may bring in less than one gallon of alcohol per year, if that individual carries it into Illinois themselves.

LEGAL

Please Note:

Unless the law or the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) says it's okay, it is **ILLEGAL** to ship or bring alcohol into Illinois from another state.

What You Need To Know About Shipping Alcohol (cont'd)

What's Illegal:

Ordering wine online from an out-of-state winery without an ILCC issued Winery Shipper's license, including wine-based products.

Ordering beer from any out-of-state brewery, including malt-based products.

Ordering spirits from any out-of-state distillery, including spirits-based products.

Ordering alcohol from any out-of-state retailers.

Purchasing alcohol in another state and shipping it to someone in Illinois, even if the purchaser assumes the risk.

The ILCC may take the following actions to prevent illegal shipments:

Coordinate with shipping companies to identify illegal shipments of alcohol into Illinois.

Order businesses to cease and desist from making illegal shipments.

Pursue civil penalties and possible criminal charges against businesses that illegally ship alcohol into Illinois.

Initiate disciplinary proceedings against Illinois licensees who ship alcohol into Illinois when not authorized by their license type.



Please Note:

Importantly, it is not legal to ship alcoholic beverages by way of an internet sale in which the purchaser (Illinois resident) takes ownership of the beverages in another state, before they are shipped. Unlicensed alcoholic beverage shipments from other states remain illegal under all circumstances. The Illinois Liquor Control Commission will take every measure necessary to prevent illegal shipments of alcoholic beverages including issuing cease and desist orders, opening civil enforcement cases, seeking injunctions against the shipper, and, in some cases, referring the matter for criminal prosecution of a felony.

2025 State Fair

The ILCC participated in the 2025 Springfield and Du Quoin State Fairs. We were honored to be selected as one of the few agencies hosting a table in the Lt. Governor's tent. Each year, the Illinois State Fair draws thousands of visitors, giving us the opportunity to engage with people from across the state.



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Center for Alcohol Policy Conference (CAP)



Illinois Liquor Control Commission Executive Director Lisa Gardner gave the welcome speech at the 2025 Center for Alcohol Policy Conference in Chicago.



Richard Haymaker , Legal counsel for the Illinois Liquor Control Commission, served as a panelist at the 2025 Center for Alcohol Policy Conference in Chicago. The panel discussed recent topics in the regulation of alcohol trade practices. The panel focused on potential commercial bribery implications of modern business practices. .

