



County Technical Assistance Service

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Beer Permits

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Tennessee Code Annotated
Reference Number: CTAS-341

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It is unlawful to operate any business engaged in the sale, distribution, manufacture or storage of beer without first obtaining a permit from the city or county in which the business is located. The county issues permits only to businesses located in the unincorporated areas of the county; cities are responsible for issuance of permits to businesses located within any incorporated areas. T.C.A. §§ 57-5-105, 57-5-106. No city or county permit is required for a wholesaler unless the wholesaler operates a warehouse in the city or county. T.C.A. § 57-5-103. Selling, distributing, manufacturing, or storing beer without the required permit is a Class C misdemeanor. T.C.A. § 57-5-303. Sample Beer Permit

There are two exceptions. Licensed caterers are authorized to sell beer and other alcoholic beverages in conjunction with their catering services in accordance with T.C.A. § 57-4-101(i) and 57-4-203(i)(3). Effective July 1, 2014, a retail liquor store owner licensed under T.C.A. § 57-3-204 is permitted to sell beer and other malt beverages without obtaining a beer permit from the county or city, and these beer sales will be regulated by the ABC. T.C.A. § 57-3-404(e).

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