



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES  
BUREAU OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND LOTTERY OPERATIONS  
DIVISION OF LIQUOR LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT

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## Guide: Starting a Brewery in Maine

Starting a brewery in Maine requires approval from federal, state, and local agencies. This guide outlines the steps and requirements to become a licensed brewery or small brewery in Maine.

Under Maine law, a brewery is a person that engages in producing malt liquor (including beer) by fermentation of malt, wholly, or partially or any substitute for malt.

### 1. Apply for a Federal Brewer's Notice

Before applying for a Maine brewery license, you must first obtain a Brewer's Notice from the [Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau \(TTB\)](#).

### 2. Obtain Municipal Approval

Contact the city or town where your brewery will be located and obtain the required local license. This is usually an Occupancy Permit, or Victualer's License. Requirements vary by municipality.

### 3. Register for Maine Sales Tax

You must obtain a [Retailer Certificate](#) from Maine Revenue Services. This allows you to collect and remit sales tax.

### 4. Obtain an Agriculture license for Food Processing

A [Food and Fuel License](#) is required to ensure products have been produced in a clean, sanitary, and inspected facility with running, potable water and appropriate surfaces, utensils, and equipment.

### 5. Apply for a Maine Brewery License

Before you can sell your beer, you will need to apply for a liquor license through the [BELLS system](#).

There are two types of brewery licenses:

#### Large Brewery License

- Production: More than 930,000 gallons per year
- Fee: \$1,000 + \$10 filing fee

#### Small Brewery License

- Production: Up to 930,000 gallons per year
- Fee: \$50 + \$10 filing fee

## Maintaining your license

### 1. Register Your Brands/Labels

Any beer that is sold in a can, bottle or keg requires brand/label registration. All brand/label registrations are completed on BELLS.

Your products will also need to be registered with Maine DEP bottle bill program.

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## **2. File Monthly Excise Tax Reports**

Breweries must submit monthly excise tax reports to the state by the 15th of each month. This tax is separate from federal taxes paid to TTB.

These reports include total gallons produced total gallons removed from the bonded area for sale in Maine for the preceding month.

Excise tax reports are submitted through BELLS.

## **3. Post Your Prices**

All manufacturers must post the prices they charge for their products sold to Maine wholesalers.

Price postings are completed on BELLS.

## **Additional Privileges for Breweries**

- ❖ A taproom, where you can sell samples produced at the facility to the public or offer samples to the public at no cost.
- ❖ Sell the beer you produced at the facility for off-premises consumption.
- ❖ Hold a restaurant license under certain conditions
- ❖ Transport liquor produced at the licensed manufacturing facility in bulk or packaged in kegs, bottles or cans, including by the case, to another manufacturing facility or a licensed retail establishment if majority ownership is held in both establishments.
- ❖ Farmers market participant license which allows the licensee to offer samples and sell bottles or cans for off-premises consumption at approved locations operating under a farmers market authorization license.
- ❖ Special taste testing permits, that allows the licensee to provide samples at no cost and sell bottles or cans for off-premises consumption at venues authorized by the Bureau.