
Electronic Transfer of Beer Between Brewpubs and Beer Wholesalers

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide guidance to Iowa brewpubs and beer wholesalers on how to electronically transfer beer inventory between the brewpub and beer wholesaler for off-premises retail sales purposes.

BACKGROUND

In an effort to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, many businesses have been ordered to temporarily close. Businesses that have been allowed to remain open have adjusted their operations to limit face-to-face interactions.

To accommodate these operational changes, Iowa brewpubs and beer wholesalers have sought guidance from ABD as to how beer manufactured by brewpubs can still pass through the three-tier system in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 123 while meeting public health-directed social distancing guidelines.

DISCUSSION

When a brewpub intends to sell beer it has manufactured in original, unopened containers for off-premises consumption from the brewpub's licensed premises, the beer must first be sold to a beer wholesaler and purchased back by the brewpub. Generally, this process involves a beer wholesaler physically picking up the beer inventory from the brewpub, storing the inventory in the beer wholesaler's warehouse overnight, and returning the beer to the brewpub's licensed premises the following day. The beer wholesaler collects the amount of beer barrel tax due during the transaction and remits the tax to ABD.

ABD has determined that current law allows a beer wholesaler to accept an electronic transfer of beer inventory from a brewpub and then invoice a sale back to the brewpub. This guidance is provided in relation to the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued on March 17, 2020 by Governor Kimberly K. Reynolds and her order directing all state agencies to coordinate expeditiously to review current statute and identify opportunities to mitigate the economic effects of the closings necessitated by the COVID-19 disaster.

Beer wholesalers are under no obligation to participate in the electronic transfer of inventory. Brewpubs and their beer wholesaler will need to both agree to engage in electronic transfer transactions.

Best Practices

ABD recommends the following best practices for electronic transfer of beer inventory in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 123. Example documentation of these best practices is attached to this bulletin.

- An electronic bill of lading showing each brand of beer and quantity to be electronically transferred from the brewpub to the beer wholesaler.
- A receiving report from the beer wholesaler acknowledging electronic receipt of the beer inventory.
- A sales invoice generated by the beer wholesaler showing each brand of beer and quantity being sold back to the brewpub.
- An electronic bill of lading showing each brand of beer and quantity being electronically transferred back to the brewpub by the beer wholesaler.

Transfer and invoicing documentation should include, at a minimum, the following information:

- Identification of the parties involved in the transaction.
- Correct address information for the parties.
- Description of the inventory transferred and sold.
- Signature (handwritten or electronic) acknowledging the transfer.

VIOLATIONS

A license or permit holder found to be in violation of any of the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 123 may be subject to administrative sanctions, including, but not limited to, civil penalty, license/permit suspension, or license/permit revocation.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions concerning this bulletin, please contact ABD's Education and Outreach Unit at education@iowaabd.com.

Additional references and useful information:

State Law: Iowa Code §§ 123.122, 123.130, 123.135

Website Links: <https://abd.iowa.gov/alcohol/abd-regulatory-bulletins>

*This bulletin does not replace statutes, rules, or court decisions.
This bulletin should not be considered legal advice or a substitute for legal counsel.*

ELECTRONIC TRANSFER - BILL OF LADING SUPPLIER TO IABD



To Consignee:
Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division
1918 SE Hulsizer Road
Ankeny, Iowa 50021

From Shipper:

Electronic Transfer

IABD PO Number Assigned: _____
IABD Electronic Delivery Date: _____

Electronic Buyback

IABD Retail Account Number: _____ IABD Tasting Account Number: _____
90 _____ 99 _____

Number of Cases	Item Code	Description	Number of Cases	Number of Cases
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

-Delivery date must occur on a Friday and must be at least one week in advance of the date the electronic transfer is to take place.
-Product transfers must be in full cases only, no bottle transfers or buybacks are allowed.
-Amount of buyback per product must equal the number of cases transferred.

I certify that all information provided is correct. I understand that a penalty may be assessed for submission of inaccurate information.

Shipper: _____
Per: _____
Date: _____

Alcoholic Beverages Division
1918 SE Hulsizer Rd
Ankeny, IA 50021

Telephone
Fax
Giro
Tax registration number

Receipts list

Page 1 of 1
Purchase order [PO018443](#)



Appointment
ID



Date

Date 4/3/2020
Mode of delivery
Terms of delivery

Line	Item number	Description	Purchase quantity	Unit	Pack size	Cases per Pallet	Delivery date	Quantity	In stock
1	123456	Beer Being Electronically Transferred	1.00	cs	12.00	70	3/31/2020	12.00	



Customer Invoice

Account Number: 9000

Invoice Number: INV-123456

Sales Order: SO-789101

Customer PO:

Date: 4/3/2020

Route:

Method of Payment: ACH

Page: 1 of 1

Total Cases: 1.00

Total Bottles: 0

Invoice Total: \$190.68

Gallonage: 2.38

Name: Sample Shipper, LLC

Ship To: 123 Main Street Ankeny, IA 50023

UPC Code	Item Code	Case Quantity	Pack	Bottle Size	Description	No. of Bottle	Price Per Bottle	Price Per Case	Total Wholesale Price	Return Reason
	123456	1	12		Beer Being Electronically Transferred			\$189.60	\$189.60	

Total Cases: 1.00

Signature: _____

Total Liquor Amount			\$189.60
Split Case Charge	0	* 0.50	\$0.00
Bottle Deposit Charge	12	* 0.05	\$0.60
Surcharge Fee	12	* 0.04	\$0.48
Invoice Total			\$190.68

ELECTRONIC TRANSFER - BILL OF LADING

IABD to Supplier



To Consignee: _____

From Shipper: _____
Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division
1918 SE Hulsizer Road
Ankeny, Iowa 50021

Electronic Transfer

Date of Transfer: _____

Electronic Buyback

IABD Retail Account Number: _____ IABD Tasting Account Number: _____

90 _____

99 _____

Number of Cases	Item Code	Description	Number of Cases	Number of Cases
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

IABD Invoice Number: _____ IABD Invoice Number: _____

I certify that all information provided is correct.

Shipper: _____
Per: _____
Date: _____