



Cannabis Infused Beverages

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Cannabis Infused Beverage (CIB)?

"Cannabis-infused beverage"

(a) Means a properly permitted adult-use cannabinoid liquid product intended for human consumption that has intoxicating properties that change the function of the nervous system and results in alterations of perception, cognition, or behavior and shall not contain more than five (5) milligrams of intoxicating adult-use cannabinoids per twelve (12) ounce serving; and

(b) Shall not include:

1. Medicinal cannabis regulated under KRS Chapter 218B;
2. Any type of hemp tincture; and
3. Any product containing solely nonintoxicating cannabinoids;

How does a CIB become “properly permitted”?

The Kentucky Department for Public Health permits these products. Products may be permitted and registered at <https://redcap.chfs.ky.gov/surveys/?s=Y39LYTYADX3YNHFD>

Where can CIB products be sold?

As of June 1, 2025, CIB products may only be sold at licensed quota retail package stores, by the package, for off premise consumption. To obtain a quota retail package alcohol license apply via the ABC online licensing portal at <https://abcportal.ky.gov/BelleExternal//>

What other license do I need to sell CIB products?

A quota retail package licensee will also need a retailer permit from the Department for Public Health until such time as the supplemental CIB retailer license is available on the ABC licensing portal. For retailer permitting, visit this link:

<https://redcap.chfs.ky.gov/surveys/?s=C8AHC9AYMP74REEM>

Can I sell CIB by the drink after June 1, 2025?

No. CIB products may only be sold by the package from a quota retail package licensed premise for off premise consumption. There is one exception in that CIB may be sold by the drink at fairs and festivals, and other similar types of events in wet territory until January 1, 2026.

As of June 1, 2025, will CIB travel through a three-tier system like alcohol?

Yes. As of June 1, 2025, CIB sales, transport, manufacturing, and distribution will be treated similarly to alcohol within a distinct three-tier system. Permitted manufacturers will provide product for sale to permitted distributors, who will provide product for sale to licensed retailers, who will then provide CIB by the package for sale to consumers.

Can a business be a manufacturer and a retailer?

No. A business may only be licensed to act in one tier (either a manufacturer, distributor or retailer).

Can a permitted manufacturer self-distribute product?

Yes. A permitted manufacturer may self-distribute approved product to retailers within certain quantity limits. Quarterly reporting to ABC and the Department of Revenue is required.

Can a permitted manufacturer ship product directly to consumers?

Yes. To ship CIB directly to consumers, a manufacturer must have a CIB shipping license (also known as a Type B shipping license) from ABC. Manufacturers may apply for this license at <https://abcportal.ky.gov/BelleExternal//>

What are the rules related to shipping CIB directly to consumers?

- A manufacturer may only ship CIB products approved by the Kentucky Department for Public Health.
- A manufacturer may only ship ten (10) cases per customer per month.
- The shipment must be made through a common carrier.
- The shipment may only be left with a person twenty-one (21) or older and age verification and signature is required.
- The package must be labeled with *"CONTAINS CANNABIS-INFUSED BEVERAGES: SIGNATURE OF PERSON AGE 21 OR OLDER REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY"*

Are there rules related to CIB sales at fairs and festivals?

Yes. Until January 1, 2026, CIB may be sold at fairs, festivals, and other similar types of events in wet territory by the package (no more than 9 liters per person per day), by the drink, and as samples (not to exceed 1 ¾ ounces per person per day). The General Assembly did not define "other similar events" in Senate Bill 202, passed in 2025. Under 804 KAR 4:251, "organized civic or community-sponsored event" for which a special temporary license is required is defined as

“a public gathering of broad appeal where citizens are invited and encouraged to attend without significant cost of admission, and that are sponsored or acknowledged by the city or county government in which the event is conducted, including any convention, conference, celebration, pageant, parade, festival, fair, public display, commemoration, or other type of public assemblage conducted for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public.” ABC will use this definition in regulating CIB sold by the drink at fairs, festivals, and other similar types of events in wet territories until January 1, 2026. Beginning on January 1, 2026, both CIB sales by the drink and sampling are prohibited.

What new licenses are required from ABC related to CIB?

CIB Package Retail License (supplemental to a quota retail package license) \$2,000 annually
CIB Distributor license (may be held in conjunction with an alcohol distributor license) \$1,000 annually
CIB Direct Shipper Type B License \$1,000 annually

Each of these license applications will be available in the future through the ABC licensing portal at <https://abcportal.ky.gov/BelleExternal/>

Note: CIB is illegal for purchase, consumption, or possession by anyone under 21 years old.