

## Catering endorsement

A catering endorsement on a license allows the catering and sale of alcohol to people attending a special event or industry-specific event\* at a place not already licensed to sell alcohol.

### Who can get one?

- Beer & Wine and Restaurant Beer & Wine (RBW) Licensees [16-4-111, MCA](#)
- All-Beverage Licensees [16-4-204, MCA](#)

## What can licensees do with a catering endorsement?

### All-Beverage Licensees

- May sell and serve alcoholic beverages to persons attending a special event for on-premises consumption.
- \*May sell and serve alcoholic beverages to persons attending an **industry-specific** (Distilleries only) event for on-premises consumption and bottles of liquor for off-premises consumption.
  - Montana licensed distilleries must submit a form to ABCD to sponsor the catered event. Contact your licensing specialist for the form.
  - Montana licensed distilleries must have an agreement with the licensee of an all-alcoholic beverages license with catering endorsement.
  - Only allowed 6 events per year.
  - Licensees must follow all other catering requirements

### Beer Licensees and Beer Licensees with a Wine Amendment

- Must be primarily in the business of providing meals with table service.
- May sell and serve beer or beer and wine (with the wine amendment) to persons attending a catered event for on-premises consumption.

### RBW aka “Cabaret” Licensees

- Must be primarily in the business of providing meals with table service.
- Food sales at the event must equal in cost to 65% of the total gross revenue from the catering contract.
- May sell and serve beer and wine to people attending a catered event for on-premises consumption.

### You may cater a catered event if it is:

- Within 100 miles of your licensed premises.
- Not held at a location already licensed for alcohol sales.
- Not being held by you, the licensee.
- Sponsored by someone with a written agreement.

### Alcohol may be stored at the event:

- One day prior to the event.
- During the event.
- One day following the conclusion of the event.

*Note:* Only the licensee and their employees can have access to the alcohol storage in a secured location that prevents access by anyone other than the licensee or the licensee's employees.

## Who can serve at a catered event?

- Employees of the licensee.
- Volunteers of the licensee.
- Alcoholic beverage manufacturers or vendors, their employees, or registered vendor representatives if:
  - The licensee allows them.
  - They have a current license, registration, or permit from the department.
  - They have server training prior to the commencement of the catered event.

## Reporting:

- Notify local law enforcement using the ABCD form and pay \$35 before the event.
- Keep a copy to upload when you report the event online.
- Report the event to the department by the 15th of the following month through our TransAction Portal (TAP) at [https://tap.dor.mt.gov/ /](https://tap.dor.mt.gov/)

## Allowed:

- May cater an event within 600 feet of, and on the same street, as a church or school, if the church or school gives the written approval for the on-premises sale of alcohol where the event is to be held.
- May only share revenue with the following sponsors:
  - the State of Montana,
  - a political subdivision of the state,
  - a nonprofit business qualified under section 501(c), or
  - a Montana university when you have catered at a sporting event held at a Montana university.

## Not Allowed:

- May not have alcohol in the event area that was purchased somewhere else.
- May not share revenue with others not listed above.
- May not sell alcohol to go (except as noted above).
- May not cater an event if you are a concessionaire.
- May not cater an event when your license is on non-use status.
- May not cater an event on premises where an alcoholic beverage license is on non-use status.

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All licensees must comply with all Federal and Montana alcoholic beverage laws and rules.

SECTIONS [16-4-111](#), [16-4-204](#), MCA and ARM [42.12.128](#)

[11.2023](#) Please note the information in department communications may have been modified, superseded, or made obsolete by changes in federal or state law or the Administrative Rules of Montana. If you need to verify the current validity of any Department of Revenue communication, please contact us.

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