

How to Open a Brewery, Brewpub, Brew on Premises, Winery, Farmer-Winery, Distillery or Rectifier in Rhode Island

RHODE ISLAND
COMMERCE

Overview of a Multi-Part Permitting Process

The Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (DBR) issues different categories of liquor licenses that fall under a three-tier licensing system: Manufacturing licenses, Wholesaler licenses, and Limited types of retail licenses. **This guidance ONLY provides general information pertaining to "Liquor License Manufacturer,"** which include each of the following license types: Brewery, Brewpub, Brew on Premises, Winery, Farmer-Winery, Distillery, and Rectifier. Except for Brew on Premises, each of these license types includes some level of retail privileges. Otherwise, **any other retail licensing is issued by the municipality in which the business premises is located.**

Opening any of the above types of liquor manufacturing businesses in Rhode Island requires permitting with several separate regulatory bodies; local towns and cities issue building, zoning, wastewater pre-treatment, other local permits, and retail liquor licenses; the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) issues licenses for Public Water Systems (PWS) and Food licenses; the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) issues permits for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) and registers Farms, such as Farmer-Wineries; the Federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Trade Bureau ("TTB") issues the federal brewery "basic permit" as well as permits for the production of wine and distilled spirits, and the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (DBR) issues liquor manufacturer and wholesaler licenses.

Although obtaining the manufacturer liquor license with the DBR is the last step a liquor manufacture must complete before opening, all the other major licensing requirements need to be considered together before a prospective liquor manufacturing business begins the DBR application process. For example, the state requirement that a licensee business have a certificate of authority from the RI Secretary of State or that the license applicant provide notice of their application to 200 foot abutting property owners, or that a Public Water Systems (PWS), wastewater pre-treatment system or Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) may be required, should be considered as threshold issues, especially considering typical liquor manufacturer investment and start-up costs. **In any event, making sure the proposed business is adequately funded to cover the costs associated with a potentially long permitting process should be factored into your planning.**

> The information provided within this document is for general information and offered as a public service meant to give general guidance on some of the steps involved in the opening of a Brewery, Brew on Premises, Winery, Farm-Winery, Distillery or Rectifier. Each business and location are unique and therefore has its' own unique circumstances and potential additional permitting/ licensing requirements. The information presented should not be used as a substitute for professional advice or guidance. We always recommend seeking advice and assistance from professionals when venturing into a business.

Worksheet: Important considerations when thinking about opening a Brewery, Brewpub, Brew on Premises, Winery, Farmer-Winery, Distillery or Rectifier

Some of the items in the following worksheet need to be considered simultaneously and not necessarily in the order listed. There are many critical factors to determine if a particular location can support your business venture, meet regulatory requirements, and/or remain within your projected budget. Please review the worksheet in its entirety so you have a better idea of the order you may need to address these tasks.

Where does drinking water for the location come from? (see page 6) ❒ public water ❒ well

Does it meet the requirements of the Public Drinking Water regulations in order to operate your business type? [Check with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), Center for Drinking Water Quality.] ❒ Yes ❒ No

What are potential costs to meet the requirements? $_____

For the location, where does wastewater go? (see page 8)
❒ city/town sewer ❒ on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS)?

- Does it meet the regulatory requirements in order to operate your business type? [Check with the Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Office of Water Resources or your local wastewater facility.] ❒ Yes ❒ No
- What are potential costs to meet the requirements? $_____

What type of wastewater pre-treatment system (e.g., grease trap, holding tank), if any, will be needed? _____

_____

- Potential costs? $_____

What type of sewer connection or wastewater discharge permits, if any, will be needed? _____

_____

- Potential costs? $_____

Does the location have the proper zoning and use permit for the type of business you want to operate? (see page 10) ❒ Yes ❒ No

For a brewpub license, does the city or town have any liquor licenses available? (see page 11)
❒ Yes ❒ No

(This is not applicable for a brewery, winery, rectifier, or distillery. For a **brewpub** you will need a local liquor license in addition to a DBR manufacturer liquor license.)

Can your location meet the requirements for obtaining a liquor license? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Continued on next page

Does the building currently comply with applicable fire code(s)? (see page 12) ❒ Yes ❒ No

Will I need a fire suppression system (sprinkler) system? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Is the sprinkler system in this location adequate? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Is the fire alarm system in this location adequate? ❒ Yes ❒ No

How much renovating am I willing to do? (see page 12)

_____

→ Potential costs? $_____

What type of building permits will be needed? _____

_____

Are bathrooms adequate and do they meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements?
❒ Yes ❒ No

How much seating will I need? _____

Does the established maximum occupancy for this location meet my needs? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Will I serve food? ❒ Yes ❒ No

→ If No, then what infrastructure needs should I plan for now, if I decide to serve food in the future? _____

→ If Yes, what type of food license will I need from RIDOH Center for Food Protection? _____

_____

→ Will my proposed menu or kitchen setup require kitchen exhaust hoods? ❒ Yes ❒ No

→ If so, what type will I need? _____

Should I plan and prepare for plumbing needs now? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Is there adequate area for dining space, kitchen space, production area, preparation areas, dishwashing area, hand sinks, storage, employee area/lockers, refrigeration, freezer, dry storage, office, and bathroom areas? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Will serving food require that water is supplied from a public water system (PWS)? ❒ Yes ❒ No

How will serving food alter compliance with wastewater discharge? (i.e. will the warewashing area require a grease trap, or will the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System need upgrading?) _____

_____

What type of grease removal equipment will be required? _____

_____

Continued on next page

Is existing parking adequate to meet my business needs and city/town requirements? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Are there limits on parking, i.e., 1-hour parking limits or meters? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Is this a landmark building or in a historic district? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Are there any special requirements or restrictions? ❒ Yes ❒ No

If I want to have outdoor seating, does this location's zoning allow outdoor seating?
❒ Yes ❒ No

Is the location within 200 feet of a shoreline? ❒ Yes ❒ No
(If so, also check with Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC) if permits/approvals for alterations from this state agency will be required)

Make sure to check with these other government entities that regulate liquor other than RI DBR:

- **Municipalities** – they also have jurisdiction over zoning ordinances which may affect the location of any type of liquor license and associated issues such as parking and noise.
- **The Rhode Island Division of Taxation** - is responsible for the collection of state taxes of alcohol in Rhode Island.
- **The Federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau ("TTB")** – which enforces laws pertaining to federal taxation of alcohol, the federal permitting of alcohol manufacturer and wholesaler businesses, and certain rules pertaining to "trade practices" between manufacturers/wholesalers and retailers.
- You must contact each of these government entities directly regarding any questions within their jurisdiction as listed above. This is not an exhaustive list, and you are encouraged to consult with an attorney and/or compliance professional.

Which staff are required to complete Alcohol Server Training (if serving alcohol)? _____

Does the seating size of my establishment fall under the requirement to comply with training employers and employees in basic crowd management techniques to comply with the state fire code? (Where 50 or more individuals could legally assemble, establishments are required to have at least one certified crowd manager or crowd manager supervisor.) (see crowd management training on page 21)? ❒ Yes ❒ No

Where do I Start? Initial Critical Considerations

A. Determine the Type of Drinking Water Supply at the Location

THIS IS A CRITICAL STEP

Once you have identified a potential location, is the drinking water at the location sourced from a municipal water utility or an on-site well, and does it meet the requirements of the Public Drinking Water regulations in order to operate your establishment? We will provide some general guidance here on required drinking water supply systems. **This is one of the most critical steps.** If a Public Water System (PWS) is required and the location cannot support a PWS or if it may be too costly to conform or construct a new PWS, then the location may not be able to support your business endeavors.

1. City or Town Water System

Also known as an Off-Site Public Water System (PWS)

If the establishment is on a city or town Public Water System (PWS), this is normally an acceptable drinking water supply. You should know the name of the municipal water supply system in case you need to submit this information with any application process. You may need to show, as verification, a recent copy of the water bill with the location address or a certificate from the water supplier. Check with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), Center for Drinking Water Quality.

2. On-site Well

a. RIDOH Licensed Public Water System (PWS)

If the establishment receives its water supply from an on-site well, and the well is licensed with RIDOH Center for Drinking Water Quality as a PWS, then before you lease or purchase the property you should verify the water supply system can support your business endeavors by providing the PWS license number to the RIDOH, Center for Drinking Water Quality at DOH.RIDWQ@health.ri.gov or (401) 222-6867.

b. Does not have a RIDOH Public Water System (PWS)

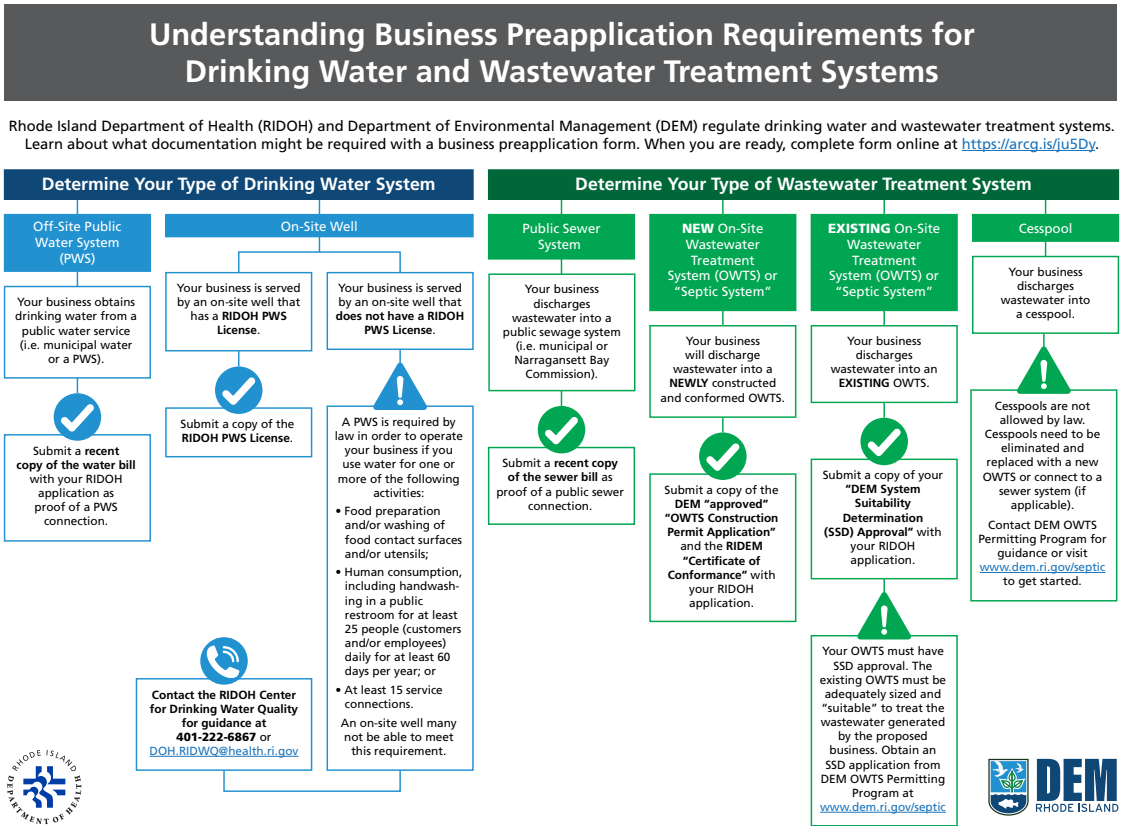
If the establishment receives its water supply from an on-site well that is **NOT** a PWS of record, then contact the RIDOH Center for Drinking Water Quality for further guidance [(401) 222-6867]. However, if you would like input from DEM and RIDOH to determine what drinking water requirements may apply to your proposed business, please complete the online RIDOH/DEM Business Pre-Application Form. There is no cost to submit the pre-application form or to participate in a pre-application meeting (if applicable). While completing the form, you can use Understanding Business Preapplication Requirements for Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Systems as a resource.

A Public Water System (PWS) is required by law in order to operate your business if you use water for one or more of the following activities
Food preparation and/or for the washing of food contact surfaces and/or utensils
Provide water for human consumption, such as hand washing, which is commonly supplied in rest rooms, to at least 25 users (customers and/or employees) daily for at least 60 days out of the year
Has at least 15 service connections

The design of a PWS will require hiring a professional engineer.

If you are trying to start a business that is **not** serviced by a municipal water supply system, and the on-site well is **not** licensed as a public water system, please complete the online RIDOH/DEM Business Pre-Application Form. As mentioned earlier, there is no cost to submit the Business Pre-application form. You will receive input from RIDOH to determine what drinking water requirements may apply to your proposed business type and location.

You can use the flow chart below as a resource to assist with determining your drinking water requirements when completing the RIDOH/DEM Business Pre-Application Form.



B. Determine the Type of Wastewater Treatment System for the Location

THIS IS A CRITICAL STEP

Is the wastewater at the business location discharging into a public sewer system or an on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS; a.k.a. septic system), and does it meet regulatory requirements in order to operate your business type? We will provide some guidance here on the required sewer connection permit/letter or approved OWTS, and the need for pre-treatment of wastewater discharge before discharging into a sewer system or OWTS.

1. Sewer System

If the business location is on a public sewer system, you will need to obtain approval (i.e., sewer connection permit or letter of approval from the appropriate wastewater treatment facility). You will need to know or determine if you are connected to a municipal sewage treatment facility or to the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) sewage treatment system. To inquire about obtaining a new sewer connection permit, contact and/or submit an application to the appropriate wastewater treatment facility.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Officials | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

a. Wastewater Discharge Permit

Because of nutrient rich discharge from these business types, it is commonly required to pretreat wastewater discharge before it enters the sewer system. We encourage you to contact your local municipal wastewater treatment facility to learn about the specific requirements for your type of operation. The design of a pretreatment system may require hiring a professional engineer. The local sewer authority Pre-treatment Coordinator or Manager can advise you of what may be required.

Pre-treatment Program Contacts for each wastewater treatment facility (WWTF)

These coordinators would be better suited to field questions related to pretreatment and local limits.

Municipal wastewater treatment facilities, locations, and officials

2. On-Site Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS)

If the potential business is not connected to a public sewer system, and you have **an existing OWTS** then you will need to verify that the system is suitable for your needs. You will likely need to submit a **System Suitability Determination (SSD) application** to the RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) OWTS Program. This application process will determine if the current system is suitable for your operation. This process may require hiring a licensed OWTS designer/installer and/or a professional engineer. In addition, a wastewater pre-treatment system or holding tank is commonly recommended because of the type of wastewater discharge from these business types.

To complete a **System Suitability Determination (SSD) application**, visit DEM's online OWR Application Portal which includes all Groundwater and Freshwater Protection Programs. You can now submit and manage applications for Freshwater Wetlands, OWTS/Septic, SSD, RIPDES, Water Quality Certification, and UIC programs at dem.ri.gov/owr-portal-login.

To request personalized support, submit a ticket to dem.ri.gov/owr-portal-ticket or for assistance email DEM.OWTS@dem.ri.gov or call (401) 222-3961.

If you are trying to start a business that is serviced by an existing OWTS, please complete the online RIDOH/DEM Business Pre-Application Form. You can use the flow chart on Page 7 as a resource to assist with determining your wastewater requirements when completing the form. As mentioned earlier, there is no cost to submit the online Business Pre-application form. You will receive input from RIDOH and RIDEM to determine what requirements may apply to your proposed business type and location with respect to OWTS.

If it is determined that a new OWTS is needed, submit an application to RIDEM for **Construction of a New Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS).** The design of an OWTS would require hiring a licensed OWTS designer/installer and/or professional engineer (see links for licensed professionals below).

RIDEM Resources

To complete a **System Suitability Determination (SSD) application**, visit DEM's online Office of Water Resources (OWR) Application Portal – The SSD application process will determine if the current OWTS is suitable to support your operation. This process may require hiring a licensed OWTS designer/installer and/or a professional engineer.

OWTS/Septic Permit Search

OWTS Licensed Professionals | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
(For a list of Licensed Professionals such as OWTS Installers, Designers & Soil Evaluators)

C. Check Zoning and Land/Building Use

You need to check with the local municipality where your business will be located to determine what potential municipal permits/licenses/approvals you may need. Each municipality treats these business types differently so check with the building and/or zoning official as well as with the town/city planner and possibly the town/city clerk's office. Make sure your establishment or potential property is properly zoned for the type of use you have in mind. In addition, confirm what other licenses/permits may be needed before moving forward with any financial commitments such as lease or purchase agreements.

NOTE: You will need to submit a copy of the **zoning inspection/approval from the town/city** where your business will be located as a requirement for the application for initial licensing with the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (DBR) for a state Manufacturer Liquor License.

D. Check Availability of Municipal Liquor Licenses

1. If you intend to open a BREWPUB

In addition to a manufacturer license from DBR, "Brewpubs" (not a brewery, brew on premises, winery, rectifier, or distillery) are required to obtain a Brewpub Retail License or other locally issued liquor license from the local municipality that authorizes the activities of a Brewpub. This is because Brewpubs are a different license type. A Brewpub requires a local license from the municipality because they also have a kitchen and serve food. Many cities and towns have a limited number of liquor licenses, so in some areas, you may not be able to get a new liquor license if the quota has been filled. If a new license is not available another option might be to find a business owner that might be interested in transferring their liquor license. Make sure you become familiar with this local licensing process since obtaining a liquor license may vary by municipality and these licenses normally include a public hearing process held by the local municipal town or city council.

Below, we discuss some additional steps to consider prior to beginning the **Brewpub Manufacturer license** process with DBR:

Brewpubs Additional Information
There are several statutes that apply to the licensing of brewpubs. In setting up a brewpub business, the applicant has choices on how to structure the business, the scope of activities, and which license(s) to apply for. There are essentially three licensing application choices, all of which require obtaining both state DBR and local/municipal approvals.

- Apply to DBR for a **Brewpub Manufacturer License** under RIGL § 3-6-1.2. DBR Rule 1.4.6(B)(8) requires local approval in the form of a RIGL § 3-7-7.2 Brewpub Retail License or other locally issued liquor license that authorize the activities of a brewpub).

- Apply to DBR for a **Manufacturers License** under RIGL § 3-6-1, and apply to the city/town for a Brewpub Retail License under § 3-7-7.2.

- **For maximum privileges, apply to DBR for both a Brewpub Manufacturer License** under RIGL § 3-6-1.2 and a **Manufacturers License** under RIGL § 3-6-1; **and to the municipality** for a RIGL § 3-7-7.2 **Brewpub Retail License or other locally issued liquor license that authorize the activities of a brewpub).**

NOTE: Breweries (RIGL 3-6-1) who do not operate as brewpubs do not require any specific local liquor license.

2. If you intend to open a Brewery, Brewpub, Brew on Premises, Winery, Farmer-Winery, Distillery, or Rectifier

You will need to obtain a **Manufacturer's license** (or for rectifier, a **Rectifying Manufacturing license**) from the DBR. The Manufacturer's license authorizes the holder to establish and operate a brewpub, brew on premises, winery, farmer-winery, or distillery at the place described in the license for the manufacturing of beverages within this state.

A **Rectifying Manufacturing license** type authorizes the holder to engage in the business of rectifying and blending at the location described for the rectifying, purifying, refining, blending, warehousing, and bottling of distilled spirits and wines.

Below we discuss other steps you need to consider prior to applying for any of these state manufacturing licenses.

E. Determine if Location/Building Complies with Fire Code Requirements

Check requirements with the local Fire Marshal in the town or city where your business will be located. You may also consider hiring a professional in this area for assistance in meeting fire code requirements. Verify whether you'll need to install or upgrade the sprinkler system, fire alarm, or ancillary/exhaust hood system over the stove (if you plan to have a commercial kitchen).

NOTE: You will need to submit a copy of the **fire inspection/approval** from the local fire marshal in the town/city where your business will be located as a requirement for the application for initial licensing with the DBR for a state Manufacturer Liquor License.

F. Determine if the Building Complies with Building Code Requirements

Do you need Building Permits for alterations or a Change in Land Use or Building Use?

Remember a building permit is required for minor interior alterations, remodels, or new construction. Always check with the local Building Official about what permits might be required. Also keep in mind, if the property already has a PWS then any addition or building within 200 feet or a 400-foot radius of the public well is prohibited. If you need additional information on land use, building codes, and which requirements apply to you, consider hiring an architect, engineer, or other building professionals for help.

If the location previously served as a retail store or was used for some other purpose, you may need to record a "change of use" with the local city or town where the building is located. Visit the city or town hall to determine if a "change of use" filing is necessary and to obtain the proper forms and procedure.

G. Determine if You Will Serve Food

If you plan to serve food in your establishment, you will need a "Food Business license" issued by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Center for Food Protection (CFP). The specific license(s) you may need will depend upon your food concept, menu, population served, and food preparation process. It is recommended that you **contact CFP at (401) 222-2749 for assistance.**

Even if you are not planning to serve food immediately, you may want to serve food in the future as we are finding with other establishments. Therefore, it may be worth having a conversation with CFP staff and RI DEM, Water Resources OWTS staff to determine what infrastructure you can address now while in the early stages, to alleviate additional costs down the road. For example, you may want to put in the necessary plumbing for a hand sink or three bay sink and grease trap removal equipment while you make building modifications because it may cost more to re-do things once your renovation is completed.

Victualing license – Pursuant to RIGL 5-24-1, a "victualing house" is a business where food is prepared and/or consumed on the premises. A municipality has the power to regulate an operation by granting a license. Contact the municipality where your establishment will be located to inquire whether a victualing license will be required. You may need a victualing license from the municipality in addition to a Food Business License from RIDOH.

NOTES:

- If you serve food, you will need to obtain a Food Business License(s) from RIDOH Center for Food Protection. Serving food in an establishment without the proper Food Business Licenses from RIDOH is not allowed.
- If you serve food, animals are **not** allowed in the establishment, with the exception that service dogs are allowed in the facility per ADA.
- As an alternative to serving and preparing food from the premises, having licensed mobile food establishments (MFEs) on the property for customers to purchase food is allowed if each MFE holds a valid license issued by RIDOH. You should ensure that MFEs that intend to sell food on your property are licensed with RIDOH Center for Food Protection.

H. Determine What's Needed to Comply with the RI Division of Taxation

Depending upon your type of liquor manufacturing operation and what types of business operations you are doing on the premises, you may be subject to various taxes, such as Sales & Excise taxes, Alcohol Import taxes, Meals & Beverages taxes, Quarterly Income taxes, etc. We urge you to contact the RI Division of Taxation for guidance or a professional tax person or Certified Public Accountant (CPA) for assistance with registering your business as well as meeting all your potential tax obligations.

You will most likely need to register your new business with the RI Division of Taxation by completing the Business Application and Registration (BAR) form. This is a comprehensive application used to register businesses for the following: Permit to make sales at retail (if applicable), income tax withholding account, RI unemployment insurance account (including Rhode Island temporary disability insurance (TDI) and Rhode Island job development fund tax), etc. To reiterate, contact your tax professional for assistance with complying with the RI Division of Taxation requirements for your business type.

Tax Resources
RI Division of Taxation – https://tax.ri.gov/
Online Business Application for Registration (BAR form) – https://tax.ri.gov/resources/businesses/registration
Statute: R.I. Gen. Laws § 3-10 – Taxation of Beverages
Contact information for Excise Tax Section – (RE: Alcohol Import Tax) **Email**: Tax.Excise@tax.ri.gov **Webpage**: Sales & Excise Taxes | RI Division of Taxation **Phone**: 401.574.8955
Contact information for Compliance and Collections Section **Email**: Tax.Collections@tax.ri.gov **Phone**: 401.574.8941
The Restaurant Industry and Rhode Island Tax Guide_Revised 9-26-23.pdf The sale of food and beverages (both alcoholic and nonalcoholic) are subject to certain RI taxes. This is a helpful guide for businesses created by the RI Division of Taxation.

I. Requirements for Initial Application for State Liquor Manufacturer License with DBR

Once you address some of the more critical and costly items mentioned above, it's time to complete the Manufacturer Licensing application.

The following items must be submitted with your DBR liquor manufacturer license application
Complete the DBR **Initial Wholesaler/Manufacturer License online at:** https://ridbrprod.state-reg-eastern.tylerapp.com/portal/public For a copy of the application, click here: https://dbr.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur696/files/2023-08/WholesalerManufacturerInitial_0.pdf
Copy of **zoning inspection/approval** from the city/town your business is located.
Copy of **fire inspection/approval** from the local fire marshal from the city/town business is located.
Sign and submit the **Taxpayer Status Affidavit**, which is a document included with the DBR initial application as Exhibit 1.
Submit a **Criminal History Record** (CHR), with each DBR Liquor Application. A Criminal History Record may be obtained by visiting the Bureau of Criminal Identification at the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General, 4 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920. To apply for a CHR in person, bring a picture-identification, showing your date of birth. The cost is five dollars ($5.00) at the time of this publication.
The applicant must submit a copy of the **Federal Basic Permit** with the DBR application. This permit can be obtained from the Federal Tax & Trade Bureau at the National Revenue Center, Cincinnati, OH by using their Permits Online platform at: https://www.ttb.gov/online-services/ponl/customer-support

J. Requirements for Federal License

If you are applying for a DBR manufacturer liquor license you will need to submit a copy of the applicable federal permit issued from the Federal Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB) as a requirement for the application for initial licensing with the DBR. As stated earlier, this permit can be obtained from the Federal Tax & Trade Bureau at the National Revenue Center, Cincinnati, OH by using their Permits Online platform at: https://www.ttb.gov online-services/ponl/customer-support. For more information on the permit application process, contact the TTB National Revenue Center (NRC) toll-free at 877-882-3277 / 877-TTB-FAQS or submit an online inquiry. For technical assistance about Permits Online see the TTB Online Help Center.

NOTE: All questions about the federal process and timeline should be directed to the federal agency, Federal Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB).
Online help center: https://www.ttb.gov/onlineservices/ ponl/customer-support

K. Registration of Farmer-Wineries with RIDEM Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment (DAFE)

Pursuant to RI Code of Regulation 250-RICR-40-00-2 (Produce Safety Rule), if you operate a farmer-winery in Rhode Island, you will need to register with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment (DAFE) as a farm and also comply with any applicable alcohol licensing requirements with the RI Department of Business Regulation (DBR).

All DAFE farm registrations shall expire on February 28 of the year after the date of issuance and shall be eligible for renewal annually.

DAFE Registration Process:

1. **Use the DAFE Permit Application Portal:**
   dem.ri.gov/dafe-portal Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

2. **Understand "Farmer" Status**
   DEM defines a "farmer" broadly to include those engaged in agricultural production, including wine production from grapes grown on the farm. If your winery produces wine from grapes grown on your property, you may qualify as a farmer under DAFE's definition.

3. **Contact DAFE for Assistance**
   For DAFE-related questions, call 401-222-2781 or visit the portal's User Guides & FAQs for step-by-step help. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management+1.

L. General Information and Citations for the Classes of Liquor Licenses Issued by DBR:

Manufacturer's license
Authorizes the holder to establish and operate a brewery, brewpub, winery, distillery, or farm-winery at the place described in the license for the manufacture of beverages within this state. Separate licenses are required for each plant location. (RIGL § 3-6-1)

See license types below:

Brewery
A brewery is a business that may sell the products they make on-site directly to consumers, subject to the limitations on amounts set in the statute. (RIGL § 3-6-1)

Brewpub (not a brewery, winery, rectifier, or distillery)
Are also permitted to sell products directly to consumers, subject to statutory limitations

(RIGL § 3-6-1.2). Brewpubs also require local municipal licensing, such as a Brewpub Retail License (RIGL § 3-7-7.2) or other locally issued liquor license that authorize the activities of a brewpub.

Brew on Premises (BOP)
Authorizes the holder to provide brewing supplies and facilities to the public for the private manufacture of malt beverages on the licensed premises. (RIGL § 3-7-7.4)

Distillery
Is a business that may sell the products they make on-site directly to consumers, subject to the limitations on amounts set in the statute. (RIGL § 3-6-1)

Farmer Winery
May sell the wine made on site in its tasting room and has expanded privileges. However, farmer-wineries must follow certain in-state ingredient sourcing requirements to qualify for this privilege. (RIGL § 3-6-1.1)

Winery
A winery may not sell alcohol directly to consumers, but may only sell it to a wholesaler for distribution. (RIGL §§ 3-6-1, 3-6-16)

Rectifying
A rectifier cannot sell directly to consumers. (RIGL § 3-6-6)

For more information see:

Information Sheet - Classes of DBR-Issued Liquor Licenses at:
https://dbr.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur696/files/documents/divisions/commlicensing/liquor/Info_DBRIssuedLiquorLicenses.pdf

M. Resources

Chart to Guide Applicants in Understanding the Requirements for Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Systems

RIDOH/RIDEM Business Pre-Application Form
This pre-application process is for applicants who want to start a business that is not serviced by a municipal water system and/or a public sewer system. Applicants complete this online form and then a pre-application meeting (if applicable) is scheduled with staff from RIDEM and RIDOH. There is no fee for this pre-application meeting.

What is a Public Water System (PWS)?
A facility/establishment that uses water in food preparation and/or for the washing of food contact surfaces and/or utensils, or provides water for human consumption, such as water for hand washing, which is commonly supplied in public restrooms, to at least 25 users (customers and/or employees) daily for at least 60 days out of the year or has at least 15 service connections.

RI Department of Health, Center for Drinking Water Quality
The RIDOH Center for Drinking Water Quality prevents disease and protects and promotes the health and safety of the people of Rhode Island by ensuring the state's drinking water supply quality. They monitor public drinking water quality and approve new public water sources and systems (PWS). For assistance call (401) 222-6867.

RI Department of Health, Center for Food Protection
The RIDOH Center for Food Protection regulates food establishments through licensing, inspections, and plan reviews. Visit their website to find out more about what they do and information that can assist you or for assistance call (401) 222-2749.

RI Department of Environmental Management, Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Program
The DEM OWTS Program administers the Rhode Island's septic system permitting program to ensure the protection of public health and the natural environment while focusing on customer service. DEM staff provide regulatory oversight in three main stages of the septic system permitting process:

1. Site-suitability: A preliminary stage which assesses the suitability of a parcel of land for on-site sewage treatment.

2. Treatment system design review: To determine a design's compliance with State standards, rules, and regulations.

3. System installation: Field inspections are conducted by DEM staff during the key stages of system siting and installation.

For assistance: contact OWTS Program staff at DEM.OWTS@dem.ri.gov or (401) 222-3961.

DEM Guidance for Breweries, Wineries, Distilleries, etc.
Below is a list of PDF resources for handling wastewater from breweries, wineries, and distilleries:

Wastewater Disposal Guidance for Breweries, Wineries & Distilleries
Industry Pretreatment Program Factsheet for Breweries, Wineries, Distilleries
Solid Waste Guidance for Breweries, Wineries & Distilleries
Rhode Island Outlets for Brewer Solid Waste

Wastewater Treatment Facilities/Locations and Officials in Charge
DEM created a list of municipal wastewater treatment facilities and contact information – handy for people who want to open a brewery and need to figure out which sewer system they are connected to and who they need to work with on their wastewater discharge into that system.

Wastewater Treatment Facilities/Pre-treatment Program Contacts for each wastewater treatment facility
DEM created a list of wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) pretreatment coordinators/managers who are better suited to field questions related to pretreatment and local limits.

DEM RI Green Certification Programs
This is a voluntary program developed to assist businesses across various categories to become sustainable and to continuously improve their pollution prevention performance. The intent of these voluntary programs are to encourage reduction of toxic substances, reduce the generation of hazardous waste whenever technically and economically practicable, reduce the use of single use plastics, increase the rates of commercial recycling, reduce sources of water pollution, reduce water usage, and educate customers and business owners about sustainability.

To learn more about the **brewery green certificate program**:
https://dem.ri.gov/environmental-protection-bureau/customer-and-technical-assistance/green-certification-programs-green-brewery.

RI Department of Business Regulation (DBR)
The Department of Business Regulation's Division of Commercial Licensing has regulatory oversight with respect to the manufacture, import, export, storage, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages. The Department issues licenses to manufacturers (breweries, distilleries, wineries, rectifiers), wholesalers, marine vessels, railroads, and airplanes, and to Class "P" caterers. **All other liquor license types are considered retail licenses and are issued by the city or town where the business is located.**

The Commercial Licensing Division reviews applications, assesses and collects fees, conducts inspections, investigates complaints, and conducts enforcements with respect to regulated entities. For assistance with liquor licensing, contact DBR's Commercial Licensing Division staff via the Online Inquiry System, via email at DBR.CommLicInquiry@dbr.ri.gov, or visit the website.

DBR Application for INITIAL Wholesale/Manufacturer License:
Avoid the paper pile up - Apply for your license online at:
https://ridbrprod.state-regeastern.tylerapp.com/portal/public

Rhode Island Office of the State Fire Marshal – Crowd Management Training
The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code requires all places of assembly (where 50 or more individuals could legally assemble) to have at least one certified crowd manager or crowd manager supervisor. This applies to restaurants, breweries, etc., as well. This program is designed to train employers and employees in basic crowd management techniques to comply with the state fire code.

Individuals who successfully complete a crowd management training session are issued a five-year license from the State Fire Marshal's Office.
For assistance email: Training Officer Anthony Lancellotti (anthony.lancellotti@dbr.ri.gov) or call the RI State Fire Marshal's Office at: (401) 889-5555.

Rhode Island Brewers Guild (Independent Service)
The Rhode Island Brewers Guild is the official brewery association in Rhode Island, existing to support and promote Rhode Island Craft Breweries. Visit their website for membership information and to find out more about the association at https://www.ribrewersguild.org or email info@ribrewersguild.org

Liquor Control Administration Regulation
DBR Regulation - 230-RICR-30-10-1 Liquor Control Administration

Alcohol Server Training Certification (if serving alcohol)
A Manufacturer whose license authorizes retail sales and service must demonstrate compliance with the alcohol server training regulations, as promulgated by the department of business regulation. All persons who sell or serve alcoholic beverages; anyone serving in a supervisory capacity over those who sell or serve alcoholic beverages; anyone whose job description entails the checking of identification for the purchase of alcoholic beverages; and valet parking staff shall receive alcohol server training. To obtain a server permit, individuals must successfully complete a RI Certified Alcohol Server Training Program. For a list of approved training programs go to Liquor Enforcement and Compliance | Dept. of Business Regulation and select the drop-down menu for "Licensed Liquor Entities" (Including Certified Alcohol Server Training Programs).

List of municipality websites
http://www.ri.gov/towns/

Federal Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB) - Federal Basic Permit
All questions about the federal process and timeline should be directed to the federal agency, Federal Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB).

Online help center: https://www.ttb.gov/online-services/ponl/customer-support