



back-bar inspection

Trends, tips, and useful information . . .

The “back-bar inspection” portion of our newsletter is designed to provide law enforcement personnel and our stakeholders with up-to-date information on alcohol-related crime trends, enforcement tips, and additional information that may be useful in enhancing ABC investigations. Although this section is specifically written for the purpose of increasing officer awareness and reducing alcohol-related crimes, it will also enlighten all readers as to what is new in terms of our response to irresponsible alcoholic beverage sales, service, and consumption.

Keg Sales Require Additional Safeguards

A closer look at keg beer requirements

Many officers have experienced dispersing large parties only to discover abandoned beer kegs and have been unable to ascertain the origin of the alcoholic beverage product. It is only reasonable to assume that problems associated with underage possession and use of alcoholic beverages are greatly enhanced, as the quantity of the beverage is increased. To assist in controlling these problems, officers are reminded that the sale of large quantities of beer, typically contained in aluminum keg containers, imposes additional legal requirements on the retailer. The purpose of these additional registration requirements is to create a means of tracking keg purchases in the event the keg ends up in the hands of underage individuals. Through a full understanding of the laws governing keg sales, officers will be able to protect our communities by reducing the likelihood that underage individuals will have the ability to purchase beer in large quantities.

By definition, a keg is a barrel having the capacity of 30-gallons. This size keg is extremely heavy (350 lbs.) and is not sold in California. The most frequently used keg container in California is a half barrel which contains 15.5 gallons, or approximately 160, 12-ounce beers. A quarter barrel, often referred to as a pony keg, contains 7.75 gallons of beer (approximately 80, 12-ounce beers). The smallest keg container contains five gallons and is sold as a sixth barrel. Due to metric conversion, imported beer is sold in containers of 13.2 gallons. Requirements pertaining to keg beer registration are delineated in Section 25659.5 of the Business and Professions Code (B&P). When dealing with keg registration, it is important to remember that this section **only applies to beer keg containers of a six-gallon capacity or more.**

Note: When purchasing beer in a keg container, the purchaser is only obtaining the beer product. To recover the beer from the keg requires tapping equipment, which is usually rented for an additional cost from the keg provider or is personally owned by the individual making the keg purchase.

Section 25659.5 (a) B&P requires that all retailers selling keg beer for consumption off the premise place an identification tag on all kegs at the time of sale and shall require the signing of a receipt for the keg of beer by the purchaser. The

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prenumbered identification tags and receipt books are supplied to the retailers by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) at a cost of \$21 for 100 identification tags and \$9 per receipt book. Beer keg identification tags are five inches by three inches in size, yellow in color, and sequentially numbered. Information placed on the identification tag identifies the location and date of sale. The tag is affixed to the outside of each keg at the time of sale and must not be removed until after the keg is returned to the retailer. Retailers are prohibited from refunding any deposit on the return of a keg that does not have an identification tag.

ABC regulations also require retailers to document information that can be used to identify the keg purchaser. Specific information pertaining to the identification (name, address, date of birth, and valid identification) of the purchaser must be completed on the beer keg registration form prior to the sale of any keg of beer. The purchaser must sign the form, which also places the purchaser on notice regarding penalties for removing keg identification tags. In the upper, right-hand corner of the receipt is a space to allow placement of the corresponding identification

BEER KEG I.D. NUMBER(S) (Affix Additional Tags On Reverse Side Of Receipt) **F202604**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL
BEER KEG REGISTRATION RECEIPT

1. LICENSEE(S) NAME(S) Party House Wine & Spirits		2. LICENSE NUMBER 21-315079	
3. ADDRESS OF LICENSED PREMISES 18839 Ventura Boulevard			
City Tarzana		County Los Angeles	
4. DATE KEG(S) SOLD 12/31/2006	5. DATE KEG(S) DELIVERED 12/31/2006	6. NUMBER OF KEGS SOLD OR DELIVERED (1) Keg	
7. FULL NAME OF PURCHASER (First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name) Mia Elenes		8. PURCHASER'S DATE OF BIRTH 10 day 26 yr 75	9. PURCHASER'S AGE 31
10. PURCHASER'S DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER OR OTHER GOVERNMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION NUMBER N1234567		11. TYPE I.D. CA Dr License	12. EXPIRATION DATE OF I.D. 2009
13. ADDRESS OF PURCHASER 251 East 6th Street			
City Los Angeles		State California	ZIP Code 90014

I certify that the information given in this receipt is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, that I am of or over the legal age (21 years) to purchase, possess and consume alcoholic beverages, that the beer purchased on this receipt will not be resold (EXCEPTION: Bonus Fide Non-Profit Organization Licensed For One Day), that I will not allow consumption of beer by any person who is not of legal age (21 years), and that I will not remove or permit the removal of the numbered identification tag(s) affixed to the above listed beer keg(s) by any person.

14. SIGNATURE OF PURCHASER
Mia Elenes DATE
12-31-06

15. CLERK/SELLER'S NAME (Please print)
Rick McElroy

WARNING: IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON TO FURNISH ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO ANYONE WHO HAS NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 21 YEARS (SECTION 25658(a) OF THE ABC ACT), POSSESSION OF A KEG CONTAINING BEER, EXCEPT BY LICENSEES, WHICH IS NOT IDENTIFIED BY THE NUMBERED BEER IDENTIFICATION TAG(S) SHOWN AT THE TOP OF THIS RECEIPT IS PROHIBITED BY LAW (SECTION 25659.5 OF THE ABC ACT). ANY PURCHASER WHO PROVIDES FALSE INFORMATION ON THIS RECEIPT SHALL BE GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR (SECTION 25659.5 OF THE ABC ACT).

ABC-286K

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL
BEER KEG IDENTIFICATION TAG

DATE KEG SOLD: **12/31/2006** TAG NO.: **F202604**

NAME OF LICENSEE: **Party House Wine & Spirits**

PREMISES ADDRESS: **18839 Ventura Boulevard**

CITY: **Tarzana** COUNTY: **Los Angeles**

WARNING: POSSESSION OF THIS KEG WITHOUT THIS TAG MAY RESULT IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 25659.5 (c) OF THE ABC ACT.

THIS TAG IS NOT TO BE REMOVED UNTIL AFTER KEG IS RETURNED TO RETAILER

TO REMOVE TAG FROM KEG LIFT HERE

RETAILER ONLY

RECEIPT MAINTENANCE: ABC retailers are required to maintain copies of beer keg transactions for a period of six-months. Note the corresponding registration tag number in the upper right-hand corner.



BY THE GALLON: Keg beer is sold in various sized containers (clockwise from the right) half barrel (15.5 gallons), one-quarter barrel (7.75 gallons), sixth barrel (5 gallons), and import keg (13.2 gallons). Beer Keg Registration Tag (right) identifies origin of keg and contains an ABC identification tag number that can also be used to trace the origin of the product.

tag number. Receipt books contain 50 duplicate receipts and are maintained by the retailer for a period of six months. Should the retailer fail to require the completion and signing of the receipt, he/she would be in violation of 25659.5 (b) B&P.

To assist officers in field investigations, the tag identification numbers can be traced through the Department of ABC to determine which ABC licensee was assigned specific lot numbers. Officers can contact their local ABC District Office for assistance in this endeavor. It is a misdemeanor to possess a keg **containing beer with knowledge** that the identification tag has been removed (Section 25659.5 (c) B&P).

Anheuser Busch distributors estimate that only five to eight percent of off-sale ABC retailers sell keg beer. Though this number is small, the potential problems that could occur with large quantities of beer ending up in the hands of minors are great. By holding retailers accountable to keg regulations, the likelihood that underage individuals will be able to purchase alcoholic beverages in large quantities will be greatly reduced.