

**Basic Terminology in Maine’s Liquor Laws
Title 28-A of the Maine Revised Statutes**

Liquor	Any substance intended for human consumption that contains > 0.5% alcohol by volume, including: (1) spirits; (2) wine; (3) malt liquor and (4) low-alcohol spirits products.	
Types of liquor and Relevant Manufacturers		
Spirits	<p>Liquor with > 8% alcohol by volume:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced by distillation or That is a mixture of liquors that includes spirits produced by distillation. <p><u>Exception:</u> Fortified wine (see definition below) made by mixing wine and spirits.</p>	<p>Manufactured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distilleries Small distilleries Rectifiers—who combine spirits with other products
Wine	<p>Liquor with ≤ 24% alcohol by volume produced by fermenting fruit or other agricultural products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special types of wine include fortified wine and hard cider (see definitions below). 	<p>Manufactured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wineries Small wineries
Fortified wine	<p>Wine (see definition above) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains > 15.5% alcohol by volume or Is a mixture of wine and spirits, as long as the product has more wine than spirits 	<p>Manufactured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wineries Small wineries
Hard Cider	<p>Liquor with between 0.5% and 8.5% alcohol by volume made by fermentation of apples or pears.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> although hard cider is wine and is made by wineries, it is sold by malt liquor retailers.</p>	<p>Manufactured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wineries Small wineries
Malt liquor	<p>Liquor with ≥ 0.5% alcohol by volume produced by fermentation of malt or a malt substitute. For example: ale, beer, porter and stout.</p>	<p>Manufactured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breweries Small breweries
Low-alcohol spirits product	<p>Liquor with ≤ 8% alcohol by volume that contains spirits, except for flavor extracts or concentrates.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> If the low-alcohol spirits product includes wine and spirits, it may also qualify as fortified wine.</p>	<p><i>Title 28-A does not clearly define who may manufacture these products; this issue is addressed in the “errors” bill.</i></p>
Other basic terminology		
Certificate of approval	Authority issued to out-of-state manufacturers or distributors/wholesalers to import liquor into Maine.	
License	Authority issued: (1) to manufacture liquor in Maine, (2) to act as a wholesaler of wine or malt liquor within Maine or (3) to sell liquor at retail in Maine.	
Certificate of approval holder	<p>In Title 28-A, the phrase “certificate of approval holder” includes both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entities with a certificate of approval to import liquor into Maine and Licensed Maine manufacturers. 	
Agency liquor store	Retailer licensed to sell spirits (along with wine and malt liquor) for off-premises consumption in Maine.	
Reselling agent	Agency liquor store with an additional license to sell spirits to on-premises retailers.	