

State of Louisiana
Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control

John Bel Edwards
Governor



Juana Marine-Lombard
Commissioner

November 21, 2018

**WARNING NOTICE AND CEASE AND DESIST
(Illegal Direct Shipment of Alcohol to Louisiana Consumers
and Businesses that do not Hold a Wholesaler License)**

To All:

Our Agency has received and is investigating complaints that several unlicensed out of state entities are shipping wine directly to Louisiana consumers and businesses. The agency has also become aware that a number of out of state retailers are shipping spirits into the state. Both of these actions are violation of La. R.S. 26:359 (Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages through Wholesalers Only) and La. R.S. 26:85 (Combination of Manufacturer, Wholesale, and Retail Business Prohibited). Apart from certain "exceptions" written into both statutes dealing with the direct shipment of wine, the direct shipment of wine or spirits in Louisiana to consumers and/or businesses that do not hold a wholesaler license is prohibited.

Furthermore, the Agency has received and is investigating complaints that businesses that hold retail licenses are receiving wine directly from wine producers and other retailers, which is illegal and does not fit the direct shipment of wine exception. Under no circumstances may a wine producer or retailer ship wine directly to any business in the State that is not properly licensed as a Louisiana alcohol wholesaler.

As such, you are immediately ordered to comply with Louisiana law by not engaging in the direct shipment of alcohol to Louisiana consumers and businesses that do not hold a wholesaler license, in violation of La. R.S. 26:359 and La. R.S. 26:85, and to cease and desist in engaging in same either as a direct shipper or recipient. Please note, violations of these sections can result in fines of 25,000 per incident and/or license suspension.

Should you have any questions regarding same, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juana Marine-Lombard". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Juana Marine-Lombard, Commissioner
Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control