

State of Louisiana
Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control

John Bel Edwards
Governor



Juana Marine Lombard
Commissioner

MARCH 25, 2020

**DUE TO COVID-19 (“Coronavirus”)
TEMPORARILY, RETAILERS MAY USE CREDIT CARDS TO
PURCHASE FROM WINE & SPIRITS WHOLESALERS**

The Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control (“ATC”) understands that this is a challenging time for Louisiana businesses due to the COVID-19 (“Coronavirus”) crisis. ATC will continue to make every effort to assist affected businesses in weathering the financial storm caused by the pandemic. Temporarily, Retailers will be allowed to use an alternative means of payment, other than cash or check, for purchases of wine and spirits from licensed wholesalers.

Under Louisiana law, the sale of wine and liquor from a wholesale dealer to a retailer “shall be made only for cash,” with “cash sales” being defined as consideration in the form of currency or coin, check, cashier’s check, certified check or bank money order. On a temporary basis, ATC will permit retailers to pay wine and spirits wholesalers through a credit card issued by a third party with the caveat that acceptance of such credit card payments by wholesalers in this instance is at their discretion.

We understand that this is a challenging time but are urging businesses to consider the health and welfare of their employees and customers as Louisiana is under a state of emergency. Governor Edwards and local leaders have issued proclamations which have the weight of law. It is intended to further restrict social gathering to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Any licensee failing to comply with these proclamations may risk having their permit summarily suspended for endangering the public health, safety, and welfare under LSA. R.S. 49:961(c). We understand the concern and uncertainty you may be experiencing surrounding the coronavirus and remain committed to being responsive to the needs of the public. We will update this policy as the situation evolves.

Should you have any questions or concerns related to this matter, please contact ATC at (225) 925-4041.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juana Lombard".

Juana Lombard
ATC Commissioner