

FORWARD

The Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (Virginia ABC) continually strives to provide the best possible service and product selection for the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Accomplishing this task requires that we model best practices and are able to adapt to changing consumer demands.

This manual is intended to serve as a reference guide for suppliers who are currently conducting business with Virginia ABC, as well as to educate new and prospective suppliers about Virginia ABC's policies and procedures.

CONTENTS

Products

Listings	
Size Extensions	
Delistings	
Expired Product	
Special Order Catalog	
Store Selection	
Discounting	
5	
Distribution Center	
Bailment Warehouse	11
Case Code Label Instructions	
Delivery of Product to Distribution Center	
Withdrawal of Product from Distribution Center	14
Physical Inventory Counts	16
Inventory Levels Discrepancy Requests	16
Incidental Charges	17
Supplier Scorecard	19
Contact Information	20





Virginia ABC considers new products to be carried in its stores or in the Special Order Catalog on a quarterly basis. The process of bringing in new items is called "Listings," and the new products appear on shelves, on our website and in the Spirited Virginia magazine at the beginning of each quarter—January, April, July, and October.

To be considered, a new product must be presented to the Virginia ABC Listing Committee for evaluation. These presentations are held approximately three months prior to the on-shelf date. Products presented must meet the requirements listed below. Virginia ABC pre-screens products for presentation approximately one month prior to the presentation week.

The Listings Committee selects products for broad distribution (e.g. 100 stores), limited distribution, one-time buy, Special Order Catalog and/or inclusion in the online ordering catalog.

- Accepted products must be available and ready for sale by the expected on-shelf date. This requires that the product be in the Virginia ABC bailment warehouse at least two weeks prior to that date. If the product will not be available as needed, it is best to delay the listing presentation.
- Products presented must be entered into Virginia ABC's Management of Inventory Product Sales (MIPS) online system, available through the Virginia ABC website.

The Listing Committee will evaluate products based upon the following criteria:

Brand Strength/Recognition

Are customers aware of the product?

Price

How does the price compare to other products and who is the competition?

Category Need

Does Virginia ABC currently carry similar products? What makes the new product unique? Does the new product fill a need that is not filled by products currently carried by Virginia ABC? What incremental sales will the new product produce for Virginia ABC?

Category Trends

Is the category growing or declining?

Sales in Other States

Does the product have any sales history to demonstrate the product's potential?

Marketing Support

What methods will the supplier use to create awareness and demand for the product, e.g. in-store sampling, consumer promotion, price discounting support, on-premise promotion?

Packaging and Appearance

Will it attract consumer attention?

Special Order Demand/Customer Requests

Have there been any sales through Virginia ABC's special order process or, if applicable, through the supplier's distillery store?

Products are scored from 1–5 on each criteria to aid the committee's decision making.

Preference may be given to products that are made or distilled in the Commonwealth of Virginia or that have been awarded the distinction of "Virginia's Finest" by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. (See www.vdacs.virginia.gov/vafinest) If the product was made or distilled in Virginia, it must be stated on the bottle.



Requirements for Listing

- Supplier must be able to meet a minimum stocking quantity amounting to a case/store ratio based on the number stores assigned and Distribution Center stock.
- Suppliers are required to send a list of products they plan to present to the committee.
- The Listing Committee will pre-screen submissions and select which items will be presented.
- Suppliers must submit a "Product Specifications" form in the MIPS online system, available through Virginia ABC's website, by the established deadline.

Information needed to complete the "Product Specifications" form

- Proof/alcohol (%)
- Number of bottles per case
- · Cost of shipping per case
- Net cost per case (The retail bottle price is calculated based on information provided.)
- UPC code
- Shipping container code (SCC)
- Number of cases per pallet
- Number of cases per layer on the pallet
- Case weight (in lbs)
- Case dimensions (in inches)
- Bottle dimensions (in inches)
- Shipping origination point

If a product is declined (either as part of the pre-screening process or after in-person presentation), it must wait one year before being re-presented for listing consideration. This waiting period may be waived only if the ownership of the product has changed since the last listing presentation or there is new information regarding the product and why Virginia ABC should carry it.

The Virginia ABC Listing Committee reserves the right to reconsider products at any time, even those that were not selected and may have been required to wait 12 months for listing reconsideration.

SIZE EXTENSIONS

Size extensions are considered in the listings process along with other new items, and all of the same criteria and requirements apply. To qualify to present a size extension for consideration, the brand's existing sizes each need to be returning at least \$150,000 in annual contribution margin.

DELISTING

Delisting is the process by which poorly performing products are removed from the Virginia ABC system.

- A new product is given 14 months to exceed the established minimum annual sales threshold. If a product does not exceed the threshold after 14 months, then the product is a candidate for delisting. However, if the new product does not exceed one-half of the minimum annual sales threshold at seven months form the initial on-shelf date, if becomes a candidate for early delisting.
- If, during the listing process, a product's potential is in question, it may be given a six-month trial period in which to demonstrate its sale potential.

Product performance is evaluated based on by-category by-price tier thresholds for "total sales per attached stores". A product's sales must exceed the threshold. If a product's sales equal or fall below the threshold, it will be a candidate for delisting and will be reviewed accordingly.

Virginia ABC publishes updated thresholds on an annual basis. Please contact Maria Jeter (maria.jeter@virginiaabc.com) for the current thresholds. Virginia products are expected to achieve at least 50 percent of the non-Virginia product threshold.

Products with a pattern of out-of-stock at the Virginia ABC bailment warehouse due to inconsistent product supply may also be delisted. Virginia ABC also reserves the right to delist products based on poor supplier performance.

Delisted items must wait two years from the date of delisting until the product can be presented again for listing consideration. This waiting period will be reduced to one year only if the ownership of the product has changed since the product was delisted.

Virginia ABC reserves the right to reconsider products at any time, even those that were delisted and may have been required to wait for listing reconsideration for up to 24 months.

Once a product has been delisted, any inventory in the Virginia ABC bailment warehouse must be retrieved immediately.

Delisted products will often be discounted in Virginia ABC retail stores in order to remove any remaining inventory from store shelves.

EXPIRED PRODUCT

Some products carry an expiration date after which the product is no longer salable. If such unsalable inventory remains in Virginia ABC stores after the product's expiration date, Virginia ABC may destroy the product and charge the supplier for the wholesale cost of the destroyed product. The supplier has the option to visit the affected Virginia ABC stores and exchange the expired product for salable product within a reasonable time as determined with Virginia ABC.

If a "one time buy" carries an expiration date, Virginia ABC will discount the product at least three months in advance of the expiration date to facilitate sell through prior to the expiration date.

SPECIAL ORDER CATALOG

As a service to customers, Virginia ABC places products with limited distribution in its Special Order Catalog. These are typically products for which there is some demand, however not significant, due to either price or low product awareness by customers. Products offered to Virginia ABC with a small allotment may also be placed in the Special Order Catalog since there may not be enough to stock in Virginia ABC stores.

The Special Order Catalog allows Virginia ABC to offer suppliers the opportunity to build a product following and create product demand. Once that demand has been built, the supplier can submit the product for consideration to be included on the standard price list.

STORE SELECTION \

Virginia ABC assigns new products to stores in which the category and price tier perform well so as to give the new product the best opportunity for success. Suppliers may make suggestions as to which stores they would like to be listed in; however, the final decision will be made by Virginia ABC.



Discount allowances (DAs) for distilled spirits, canned cocktails, hard seltzers, and nonalcoholic mixers may be performed up to six times a year for each brand-label name. For example, brand "x" green apple vodka may be discounted six times a year and brand "x" watermelon vodka may also be discounted six times a year. Discounting different sizes of the same brand label each count as one of the six allotted discounts.

Virginia wines may be discounted up to seven times a year.

New products may be discounted in their first month of availability.

Minimum discount thresholds are shown below:

PRODUCT TYPE	QUALIFICATION TO DISCOUNT	MINIMUM DISCOUNT
Nonalcoholic mixer	none	none
Virginia wine	none	none
Distilled spirits:		
50mL	n/a	no discounting allowed
100mL	n/a	no discounting allowed
200mL	n/a	no discounting allowed
375mL	Retail bottle price is \$20 or greater	\$1.00 or 5% off retail bottle price*
750mL		\$1.00 or 5% off retail bottle price*
1L		\$1.00 or 5% off retail bottle price*
1.75L		\$2.00 or 5% off retail bottle price*
Canned Cocktails and Hard Seltzers:		
4 pack (355 ml/12 oz. cans) 1.42L		\$1.00 or 5% off retail unit*
6 pack (355 ml/12 oz. cans) 2.1L		\$1.00 or 5% off retail unit*
4 pack (200ml cans) 800ml		\$1.00 or 5% off retail unit*
Single cans 100ml		\$1.00 or 5% off retail unit*

^{*}In these cases, the minimum discount can be by fixed dollar value or percentage, whichever is greater.



BAILMENT WAREHOUSE

The Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (Virginia ABC) operates a bailment warehouse system. Under this system, ownership of products stored by a supplier in the Virginia ABC Distribution Center will remain with the supplier and will remain, and at all times be found to be, the sole and exclusive property of the supplier, and the Virginia ABC has no right there in until the product is shipped confirmed by Virginia ABC for delivery to its government stores.

Virginia ABC has established a minimum inventory level of two weeks supply and a maximum inventory level of six weeks supply for each code maintained in the bailment warehouse. Suppliers will be provided with a report listing these inventory levels for their products. Inventory quantities greater than six weeks of supply must be approved by the Supply Chain and Operations Manager prior to delivery.

Virginia ABC may on occasion request additional or lower levels of inventory of a product than the inventory levels stated here to cover events such as peak season or non-peak season, marketing promotions, etc.

CASE CODE LABEL INSTRUCTIONS

The Case Code Label is one of the major benefits to the control state coding system. Following is an example and explanation of the approved case code label:

- Case Code Label is 4"x 6"
- 2. Label paper/material Labels should be on white stock paper with black lettering *unless approved otherwise*.
- 3. Product Description
- 4. Control State Code Number
- 5. Other State Code Numbers
- 6. UPC Symbology
- Label Placement
 The label should be located on an end panel.

The size of the product must be included BACARDI LIMÓN 750 ML. 70 PROOF All other state code numbers should be 1/2" high The unique six digit CSC number Represents the three-digit prefix to further identify class and type The UPC symbology should be located in the PA and NC lower left hand code numbers corner of the should be 7/8" case code label. to 1" high

All bar codes (UPC, EAN, SCC-14, SSCC-18, and other Als & Data) shall be printed and placed in a vertical bar configuration (picket fence). Placement of bar codes is independent of print technology and symbology employed.

If you have any questions about where to place bar codes or if they are in proper format, please contact the Virginia ABC Transportation department at (804) 213-4524.

DELIVERY OF PRODUCT TO DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Campus Instructions:

Delivery drivers should use ABC's Distribution Center address for mapping programs. **Please note**, when you approach the Freight Way T-intersection, **TRUCKS MUST TURN RIGHT**. Turning left will take drivers to the parking area for ABC's Headquarters. This lot **does not** lead to the Distribution Center, and it is impossible for large tractor trailers to turn around without causing damage to other parked vehicles.

ABC's Distribution Center address:

7452 Freight Way Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Delivery Requirements:

Suppliers will be responsible for determining the quantities of merchandise to be delivered to the Virginia ABC bailment warehouse for storage as provided by the minimum and maximum inventory levels. Suppliers shall schedule deliveries through the Extended Enterprise Management (EEM) system. Trucks without an appointment will not be unloaded.

Cases that are received at the Virginia ABC bailment warehouse with visible damage or improper/missing carton packaging will be unloaded into a holding area. In some instances, the entire shipment may be refused due to excessive damage on the delivery. Tray packs, retail packaging, loose products, etc. will not be accepted. The supplier will be notified and asked for disposition instructions.

Pallet Requirements:

Supplier must notify Virginia ABC by letter 30 days prior to a pallet configuration change or Virginia ABC will not be responsible for any discrepancies.

We require product to be delivered on 48x40, 48x42, standard, CHEP, or PECO pallets. Pallets must be delivered in a grade #1 or A condition. Grade #1 or A Grade pallets are clean and structurally sound, as they have typically been repaired so that it is close to its original condition. For example, broken stringers must have been replaced or repaired with metal plates, and all damaged deck board have been replaced.

VAPs and Oversized Products:

At the distribution center, all products will be conveyed in the length (longest) dimension parallel to the flow of the conveyor. Cartons should fit within the dimension/weight parameters below. Case height cannot be greater than the length or width. Cartons that do not adhere to these guidelines will not fit through the conveyor curves with a 2" clearance and will be deemed non-conveyable. These non-conveyable products will require special manual handling which adds cost to handling the product. Cartons that are deemed to be non-conveyable will be subject to an additional handling cost of \$2 per case and may also count as Supplier Scorecard violation. Either or both of these may be waived by Virginia ABC if there is a compelling case for incremental sales for Virginia ABC for these out-of-dimension products.

	Length	Width	Height	Weight
Minimum	10"	7"	5"	5 lbs.
Maximum	24"	16"	20"	55 lbs.

Any and all products submitted for consideration in any way—listings, one time buy, limited time only, VAP, holiday merchandise, etc.—must include the case dimensions as part of the information provided to Virginia ABC. While there may be a sound business reason for accepting a product that requires special handling, suppliers will need to provide a compelling case for incremental sales for Virginia ABC to accept an out-of-dimension product.

WITHDRAWAL OF PRODUCT FROM DISTRIBUTION CENTER

A supplier may request a withdrawal of product inventory from the Virginia ABC bailment warehouse. The request is reviewed and either approved or denied by the Virginia ABC Supply Chain and Operations Manager. If the request is approved, then the product that has been requested will be collected and staged for loading onto the supplier's truck.

Reasons for withdrawal requests vary, but may be due to the delisting or discontinuation of a product, the supplier's need to reallocate some of their inventory to another location (i.e., West Virginia has run out and there is more than enough inventory to cover Virginia currently stored in the Virginia ABC bailment warehouse), the maximum inventory level at the Virginia ABC bailment warehouse has been reached, or product is defective or unsalable.

WITHDRAWAL OF PRODUCT TROM DISTRIBUTION CENTER

The supplier acceptance of order review window is between 11 p.m. – 12 a.m. the day prior to a delivery. If the supplier does not accept the order, they shall notify the Virginia ABC Distribution Center, via email (shippingoffice@virginiaabc.com). To review items, please see below for step-by-step instructions.

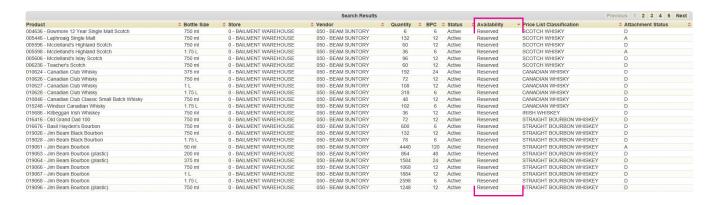
- Login to MIPS
- 2. Click "Search Current Inventory Levels"



- 3. Select the vendor name from the drop down list.
- 4. Enter in "0" for the store number.
- 5. Check the box: "Exclude Rows with Quantity of 0."
- 6. Click "Search."



7. Sort by the "Availability Column" until "Reserved" products are shown.



8. All products listed as "Reserved" are scheduled for delivery.

PHYSICAL INVENTORY COUNTS

Please see below for rules on physical inventory counts.

- Suppliers can conduct physical counts January September. No physical counts can be conducted October December.
- Suppliers may conduct the physical count between 4:30 PM-11:00 PM Monday-Thursday.
- Anyone who attends the physical count must wear safety shoes and comply with any Virginia ABC Distribution Center safety protocols.
- Fee for physical count is \$60/hour. Physical count will be assisted by an Inventory Control Specialist and/or Cherry Picker employee.
- Physical counts must be scheduled with at least two weeks notice and must be scheduled and approved through the Supply Chain and Operations Manager.

INVENTORY LEVELS DISCREPANCY REQUESTS

In the event that a supplier has an inquiry regarding inventory level discrepancies or payment discrepancies, Virginia ABC will research back one year from the date of the suppliers request. For example, if a request is made on November 1, 2023 to review inventory discrepancies, Virginia ABC will perform analysis on inventory transactions from November 1, 2022 to November 1, 2023. Transactions and discrepancies that occur more than one year from the date of the supplier's request will not be considered.

INCIDENTAL CHARGES

Suppliers will be charged for the following services: Effective: January 2023

Category 1 Fees			
Category	Fee	Description	
Labeling/re-labeling cases	\$3.00/per case-1st offense for the fiscal year	Missing/Incorrect NABCA product code number.	
	\$5.00/per case-2nd offense for the fiscal year		
	\$10.00/per case-3rd offense for the fiscal year		
	Increase by increments of \$10.00 for future occurrences		
Recooperage	\$10.00/per case	Bottle/case change; repacking damaged cases.	
Replacing damaged pallet / combining/separating/ restacking cases	\$2.00/per case-restocked using a clamp truck	Restacking nonstandard pallets and for less than Grade A or 1 pallets.	
	\$5.00/per case-restocked by hand		
Destroy product	\$10.00/per case		
Physical inventory	\$60.00 per hour (1 hour minimum)		
Late/after hour receiving	\$50 per hour	The fee calculation begins at 2:30 p.m. and ends fifteen minutes after the truck is unloaded.	
Closeout product in bailment not removed from Distribution Center within 30 days notice	\$100 per day for every day after 30 day notice	Virginia ABC will give suppliers 30 days notice when closeout product must be removed from Virginia ABC Distribution Center. Failure to do so will result in a fine.	
Product is Non-Conveyable	\$2 per case	Product case is outside of the specified dimensions or is otherwise non-conveyable due to packaging, product fragility, or other reason.	

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INCIDENTAL CHARGES

Effective: January 2023

Category 2 Fees Scorecard compliance greater than 95% (to the second decimal) = following fees waived			
Category	Fee	Description	
Unscheduled receiving fee	\$250 per incident 90%-95% compliant	Carrier/Supplier arrives without a	
	\$500 per incident less than 90% compliant	delivery confirmation number	
Missed receiving appointment	\$250 per incident 90%-95% compliant	Waived with 24 hour notice	
	\$500 per incident less than 90% compliant		
Inaccurate entry of shipment	\$250 per incident 90%-95% compliant	Inaccurate entries of product(s)	
information on inbound delivery appointments	\$500 per incident less than 90% compliant	Inaccurate entry of case quantityProduct not set up or inactive in MIPS	
Failure of notice for changes in	\$250 per incident	Item Code	
master data	Failure to notify Virginia ABC of changes in master data two weeks prior to the product arriving at the Virginia ABC Distribution Center.	 Product Description UPC, UCC, SCC Bottles Per Case & TiHi Case Dimensions Bottle Dimensions Item Images 	
Packaging Malfunction	If Distribution Center production is delayed due to packaging falling apart, an additional charge for the labor time lost will be applied at the burdened labor rate of \$23.75 an hour "x" the number of employees working on that particular shift	Packing falling apartBroken packaging	
Inaccurate dock type/Full, Mixed,	\$50-1st offense for the fiscal year	Continued offenses will result in	
LTL and Non-dockable	\$100 - 2nd offense for the fiscal year	the supplier's privilege to schedule inbound appointments to be	
	\$150-3rd offense for the fiscal year	rescinded. Future deliveries would require Virginia ABC approval to	
	\$200-4+ offenses for the fiscal year	schedule inbound appointments.	
	If a supplier sets up an inaccurate load configuration in EEM on the appointment and incorrectly states the number of pallets on the Purchase Order by more than 20%, the supplier will be subjected to the above fee structure		
Failure to ship an ASN	\$250 per incident 90%-95% compliant	The supplier fails to ship an ASN in	
	\$500 per incident less than 90% compliant	EEM at least one day prior to the receiving appointment.	

Note: If the supplier fails to notify Virginia ABC of a bottle per case (BPC) change that causes a negative financial impact to the supplier, the financial loss will be the responsibility of the supplier. Notification of the BPC change must be made to Virginia ABC two weeks prior to product arriving at the Virginia ABC Distribution Center.

SUPPLIER SCORECARD >

SUPPLIER SCORECARD AND FEES

The fee structure is based upon the Supplier Scorecard that is maintained by Virginia ABC. Certain fees are assessed on a case-by-case basis (see Category 1 Fees chart, page 17), while others are assessed on a sliding scale (see Category 2 Fees chart, page 18) based on your overall score on the Supplier Scorecard.

The goal is for all suppliers to maintain a Supplier Scorecard Overall Score of 95.00 or greater. Maintaining a score of 95.00 or greater will result in having all Category 2 fees waived. The scorecard will be based on the Delivery Violations (see below) from the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1 through the current month. The scorecard calendar will "reset" at the start of each fiscal year. Suppliers will not be subject to Category 2 fees until the number of deliveries meets 20 per fiscal year. These fees will be assessed monthly and deducted from merchandise payments by Virginia ABC.

Delivery Violations:

- Delivery appointment cancellations (without 24 hour notice)
- No shows for a scheduled appointment
- Inaccurate entries of products
- Inaccurate entries of product quantities
- Failure to link or ship ASN in EEM

Listings and promotional decisions:

Suppliers' overall score on the Supplier Scorecard is part of the criteria used in Virginia ABC Marketing's listings and promotional decisions.

Virginia ABC will publish all Supplier Scorecard scores monthly to ensure transparency throughout the process. The figure below shows a sample of the new Supplier Scorecard.



(Score calculation = (# deliveries - violations)/total deliveries)

CONTACT INFORMATION

SPECIAL ORDERS

Robin Fox Product Specialist Manager (804) 213-4524 robin.fox@virginiaabc.com

NEW PRODUCT LISTINGS, DELISTINGS, OR DISCOUNTING

Maria Jeter Product Program Manager (804) 213-4523 maria.jeter@virginiaabc.com

ALLOCATED, PRIVATE BARRELS, HOLIDAY MERCHANDISE, AND OTHER LIMITED-TIME PRODUCTS

Joy Reeves Product Manager (804) 213-4701 joy.reeves@virginiaabc.com

THE BAILMENT WAREHOUSE

Bryan Vaughan Supply Chain Operations Manager (804) 213-4525 bryan.vaughan@virginiaabc.com