

WAC 314-28-210 Return of spirits by retailer—Replacement—Conditions. No spirits shall be returned by any retail licensee to any spirits distributor except as herein provided.

(1) Spirits which is not in a salable condition may be returned by a retail licensee to the spirits distributor from whom purchased, provided it is immediately replaced by the spirits distributor with an identical quantity, type and brand of spirits. If the brand of spirits is not presently in the spirits distributor's stock and is not available to the distributor in the immediate future, a cash refund may be made to the retail licensee upon the approval of the board first being obtained.

(a) Every spirits distributor shall maintain on the licensed premises for a period of three years complete records of all refunds and exchanges made under this section including an inventory of unsalable spirits returned to such distributor by any retail licensee.

(b) Such unsalable spirits which requires reconditioning or destruction shall be returned by the spirits distributor to the distillery or craft distillery which manufactured or produced the same, or to the importer who imported such spirits. When spirits which has been returned to a distiller or craft distiller by any person for reconditioning or destruction has been assembled at the distillery or craft distillery, a complete inventory in duplicate of unsalable spirits shall be filed with the board by the distillery or craft distillery with a request that inspection be made of the returned spirits before the reconditioning process or destruction is started. When spirits has been returned by the distributor to the importer who imported such spirits, a complete inventory of said spirits shall be filed in duplicate with enforcement by the importer with a request that inspection be made of the returned spirits before the spirits is destroyed or returned to the out-of-state manufacturer.

(c) Spirits which is not in a salable condition and has been returned to a distillery, craft distillery or importer by a distributor may be replaced by the supplier with an identical quantity, type, and brand of spirits. If the brand of spirits is not presently in the distillery, craft distillery, or importer's stock and is not available to the supplier in the immediate future, a cash refund or credit may be made to the distributor by the supplier. Credit extended for the return of product should be noted on a separate document from the original invoice. Except as provided herein, no other adjustment, by way of a cash refund or otherwise, shall be made by the distillery, craft distillery, or spirits distributor.

(2) Spirits may be returned by a retail licensee or by a governmental agency who has seized the same to the spirits distributor selling such spirits in the event the retailer goes out of the business of selling spirits at retail a cash refund may be made upon return of the spirits, provided that consent of the board is first had and obtained.

(3) Spirits different from that ordered which has been delivered in error to a retail licensee may be returned to a spirits distributor and either replaced with that spirits which was ordered or a cash refund may be made upon the approval of the board first being obtained. The error in delivery shall be discovered and corrected within eight days of the date the delivery was made.

(4) A distributor may return salable spirits to a Washington distillery or craft distillery provided the distillery or craft distillery reimburses the distributor for the cost of the spirits.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 66.24.170, 66.24.640, 66.24.695, and 66.08.030. WSR 18-02-006, § 314-28-210, filed 12/20/17, effective 1/20/18.]