



Decree of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health amending its decree on the Supervision of the Alcohol Act

Main content

The Alcohol Act (1102/2017) has been amended with **Act xx/2026**, which will enter into force on **dd Month 2026**. An amendment has been made to the law in accordance with Petteri Orpo's Government Programme, allowing all domestic small and craft breweries, small distilleries, and wineries to sell their products directly to consumers from their places of production with a retail sales licence. Concurrently, separate exemptions for directly sold wine and craft beer are repealed.

Under Section 17(1)(4) of the Alcohol Act, a retail sale licence for fermented alcoholic beverages containing at most 8.0 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume and otherwise produced alcoholic beverages containing at most 5.5 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume applies to retail sales within a single retail location and is granted for a location that is either in the immediate vicinity of the place of manufacture of the alcoholic beverages or in the immediate vicinity of the holder of the manufacturing licence.

According to Section 17(2) of the Alcohol Act, a holder of a production licence referred to in Section 17(1)(4), whose annual production does not exceed 100 000 litres of alcoholic beverages converted to pure alcohol, will additionally be allowed to sell at the production site more than 8.0 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume of fermented beverages and more than 5.5 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume of other beverages, up to a maximum of 25 000 litres of pure alcohol per calendar year. The requirement is that a typical part of the production takes place at the production site. Mixing, diluting, filtering, or other similar simpler processing of alcoholic beverages is not considered a typical part of the production. The manufacturer may engage in retail sales of fermented alcoholic beverages containing more than 8.0 percent of ethyl alcohol by volume and other alcoholic beverages containing more than 5.5 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume only at one production site physically separate from other production sites.

Section 56 of the Alcohol Act lays down the self-monitoring by the licence holder and the obligation of the licence holder to prepare a self-monitoring plan. According to subsection 4 thereof, further provisions on the creation, content and implementation of the self-supervision plan are laid down by decree of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

Section 62 of the Alcohol Act lays down the supervisory authority's right of inspection and access to information. According to subsection 4, a licence holder shall, on a regular basis, submit to the supervisory authority declarations and information regarding his or her sales and other operations necessary for supervision and operational risk assessment. Further provisions on submitting declarations and information are laid down by decree of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

An amendment is proposed to Section 5 of the Decree of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (158/2018) on the supervision of the Alcohol Act, in which the self-supervision plan should consider the fulfilment of the requirements of section 17(2) of the Act. In addition, it is proposed that Section 9 of the Decree be amended to require operators engaged in retail sales pursuant to Section 17(2) of the Act to submit information on annual sales volumes of alcoholic beverages containing more than 5.5/8.0 per cent of alcohol by volume to the supervisory authority.

Amendments to Sections 5 and 9 of the Decree have also been prepared in connection with Government Bill HE 131/2025 vp, and the proposed amendments have been subject to consultations. The Government



Bill is still under consideration in Parliament. The documents regarding the preparation of this Decree are available at <https://stm.fi/hanke?tunnus=STM117:00/2025>. The proposed amendment to the Decree has been prepared in consideration of the existing Decree of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (158/2018) on the supervision of the Alcohol Act.

The draft decree has been prepared as part of the duties of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

The Decree is intended to enter into force on [day] [month] 2026.

Principal impacts

The effects of regulation on the extension of the retail sale rights of small producers of alcoholic beverages are assessed in Government Bill HE xx/2026 vp. The regulation introduced in the proposed Decree does not have any independent effects in this respect.

Preparation of the matter and consultation feedback

The draft decree and the explanatory memorandum were sent for consultation on dd Month 2026, lasting until dd Month 2026. A total of xx statements were received. Opinions were provided by...

Based on the feedback...

Provision-specific explanatory notes

Section 5. Self-monitoring plan for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages. Addition of paragraph 8 to this Section. According to the new paragraph 8, the self-monitoring plan must include a description of how the licence holder ensures compliance with the conditions of Section 17(2) of the Alcohol Act if the licence holder engages in retail sales in accordance with Section 17(2). Section 17(2) of the Act lays down the right of retail sale of fermented alcoholic beverages containing more than 8.0 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume and alcoholic beverages produced by other methods and containing more than 5.5 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume directly at the place of manufacture. The sale of alcoholic beverages containing more than 5.5/8.0 per cent of alcohol by volume is not subject to a separate licence; instead, the right of sale is included in the retail licence granted to the place of manufacture pursuant to Section 17(4) of the Act, if the conditions laid down in Section 17(2) are met. The first condition is that the licence holder's annual production does not exceed 100 000 litres of pure alcohol. The second condition is to restrict the sale of alcoholic beverages with an alcohol content of more than 5.5/8.0 per cent to a maximum of 25 000 litres of pure alcohol in a calendar year. In addition, a typical part of the production must take place at the place of manufacture of alcoholic beverages, and retail sales may only be carried out through one place of manufacture that is physically separate from other places of manufacture. The licence holder must ensure that all the conditions are met in its operation. For example, the self-monitoring plan must describe how the prescribed by-litre volume limits are monitored and anticipated in the operation.

Section 9. Submission of notifications and information to the supervisory authorities. An obligation would be introduced in Section 17(3) of the Act for retailers operating under Section 17(2) to report, in litres, the sales volumes of fermented alcoholic beverages containing more than 8.0 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume and alcoholic beverages produced by other methods more than 5.5 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume. According to Section 17(2) of the Act, a licence holder may sell up to a maximum of 25 000 litres of alcoholic beverages with an alcohol content of more than 5.5/8.0 per cent during a calendar year, when converted to pure alcohol. Reporting the sales volume of alcohol is important to ensure that the 25 000 litre limit is not exceeded. In addition, for the sake of clarity, the provisions of the current Subsection 3 on the reporting obligations of the licence holder would be moved to the new Subsection 4.



Entry into force

It is proposed that the Decree enter into force on **dd Month 2026**, i.e. concurrently with Section 17(2) of the Alcohol Act.