



Government Decree amending the Decree on the implementation 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. The Act was amended in accordance with the government programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo so as to allow all domestic small and craft breweries, microdistilleries, and wineries to sell their products directly to consumers from their production premises under a retail sales licence. At the same time, the separate exceptions for farm wines and craft beers were repealed.

According to Section 17(1)(4) of the Alcohol Act, a retail sales licence for alcoholic beverages containing up to 8.0 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume produced by fermentation, and up to 5.5 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume produced by other methods, applies to retail sales within the premises of a single retail outlet and is granted to the holder of a production licence at or in the immediate vicinity of the alcoholic beverage production premises.

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 into pure alcohol, may additionally sell at the production site up to 25,000 litres of alcoholic beverages per calendar year, converted into pure alcohol, which they have produced by fermentation and which contain more than 8.0 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume, and alcoholic beverages produced by other methods containing more than 5.5 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume. 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 per cent 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 8 of the Alcohol Act provides for an application for a licence as intended in the Act. In accordance with Sub-section 2 of the Section, further provisions and statements relevant to the consideration of the application shall be laid down by Government Decree.

It is proposed that Section 6 of the Government Decree on the Implementation of the Alcohol Act (151/2018) be amended so that subsection 1 takes into account the retail sales right of small producers referred to in Section 17(2) of the Alcohol Act. In addition, subsection 2, concerning farm wines and craft beers, and subsection 3, concerning additional clarifications, would be repealed. Subsection 3 would be moved to the Act proper.

Amendments to Section 6 of the Decree have also been prepared in connection with the Government Bill HE 131/2025 vp, and the proposed changes have been through the consultation process. The Government Bill is still under consideration by Parliament. Documents related to the preparation of this Decree are available at <https://stm.fi/hanke?tunnus=STM118:00/2025>. The proposed amendment has been prepared in relation to the current Government Decree on the Implementation of the Alcohol Act (151/2018).

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 impacts of the regulation concerning the expansion of retail sales rights for small producers of alcoholic beverages have been assessed in Government proposal 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 submitted to the consultation process, which ran from dd Month to dd Month 2026. A total of xx statements were received. Opinions were provided by ...

Based on the feedback...

Provision-specific rationale

Section 6. Content of the application for an alcohol retail sales licence. The section would be amended in its entirety. Subsection 1 of the section would be supplemented so that, in addition to the location and contact information of the retail outlet, the applicant would, if necessary, also be required to provide the location and contact information of the production premises. Providing the location and contact information of the production premises would be necessary when the applicant is applying for a retail sales licence under Section 17(1)(4) of the Alcohol Act, at or in the immediate vicinity of the production premises. In addition, point 2 would be supplemented so that the applicant must provide information if the retail sales licence is being sought in connection with a production licence.

A new point 5 would be added to the section. According to this point, the applicant would be required to submit a statement on whether they intend to engage in retail sales referred to in Section 17(2) of the Alcohol Act, if the licence is sought under Section 17(1)(4), in connection with or in the immediate vicinity of the production premises. Under Section 17(2), the right to sell alcoholic beverages produced by fermentation containing more than 8.0 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume, and those produced by other methods containing more than 5.5 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume, is included in the retail sales licence under Section 17(1)(4), provided the conditions set out in subsection 2 are met. No separate licence would therefore be required for the retail sale of products subject to monopoly regulation. However, for supervision purposes, it is important to know which operators sell alcoholic beverages exceeding 5.5 per cent or 8.0 per cent of alcohol by volume. For this reason, the applicant should indicate, when applying for the licence, whether they intend to carry out such retail sales.

Subsection 2 of the current section would be repealed, as the law would no longer provide separate exceptions for fortified wines and craft beers. Subsection 3 would also be repealed from the Decree. This subsection would be moved to the Act proper, as the possibility to request additional information should be provided for in the law itself.

Entry into force

It is proposed that the Regulation enter into force on dd Month 2026, i.e. at the same time as Section 17(2) of the Alcohol Act.