



Form RL-26 Instructions

General Information

Who must file a return?

You must file Form RL-26, Liquor Revenue Return, if you are a **manufacturer** (brewer, fermenter, distiller, rectifier, winemaker, blender, processor, bottler, or person who fills or refills original packages); or an **importing distributor** (a person in Illinois who imports or causes to be imported into Illinois any alcoholic liquor).

Alcoholic liquor includes alcohol, spirits, wine, beer, and every liquid or solid, patented or not, containing alcohol, spirits, wine, or beer, that are more than one-half of one percent alcohol by volume and are capable of being consumed as a beverage by a person.

When and where do I file?

You must file Form RL-26, including all attachments, on or before the 15th day of each month for the preceding month.

Form RL-26 can be filed electronically in MyTax Illinois at **mytaxillinois.gov**. MyTax Illinois also allows for electronic payment of any tax due.

You can also complete a paper Form RL-26 and mail it along with attachments to:

**ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FUEL DIVISION
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
PO BOX 19467
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9467**

If you have questions, email us at **REV.ATP-MFR@illinois.gov**, write us at the address above, call us weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at **217-782-6045**, or visit our website at **tax.illinois.gov**.

What if I fail to file and pay the amount I owe?

You owe a **late-filing penalty** if you do not file a processable return by the due date, a **late-payment penalty** if you do not pay the tax you owe by the original due date of the return, and a **bad check penalty** if your remittance is not honored by your financial institution. Interest is calculated on tax from the day after the original due date of your return through the date you pay the tax. We will bill you for penalties and interest. For more information about penalties and interest, see Publication 103, Uniform Penalties and Interest, which is available on our website at **tax.illinois.gov**.

What other penalties may be imposed?

If you fail to keep the required records or if you violate provisions of the Liquor Control Act of 1934 or our rules and regulations, you are guilty of a petty offense for the first offense. For a second or subsequent offense, you are guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

Each day you engage in business as a manufacturer, foreign importer, importing distributor, or retailer in violation of the act constitutes a separate offense.

What records must I keep?

You must keep complete and accurate records for at least 3 years.

Specific Instructions

Step 2: Figure your tax due

Line 9

Distillers, rectifiers, or blenders licensed as manufacturers:

Number of wine gallons of alcoholic liquor on hand, including those in public or bonded warehouses, at the beginning of the month covered by this return that were bottled or made ready for sale.

Importing distributors:

Number of wine gallons of alcoholic liquor on hand at the close of business on the last day of the preceding month. Include all alcoholic liquor, regardless of where it was purchased and where it is housed.

Note: Amounts on this line should be identical to the amounts on Line 19 from the preceding month.

Line 10

Distillers, rectifiers, or blenders licensed as manufacturers:

Number of wine gallons of alcoholic liquor bottled during the month, plus the number of wine gallons of alcoholic liquor sold in bulk.

Purchasers of alcoholic liquor in bulk:

Report the purchases on Schedule D, regardless of where or from whom you made the purchases. Although such alcoholic liquor does not appear on your Form RL-26 until it is used in production or resold in bulk, this information is needed to allow exemption to the seller.

Line 11a – Number of wine gallons of alcoholic liquor you imported into Illinois. Attach **Schedule A** for support.

Line 11b – Number of wine gallons of alcoholic liquor you purchased from Illinois manufacturers or other licensed importing distributors on which Illinois Liquor Gallonage Tax was not paid when you made the purchase. Attach **Schedule F** for support.

Line 11c – Number of wine gallons of tax-paid alcoholic liquor purchased from or returned to you from retailers and distributors. Attach **Schedule G** to support this line.

Line 13 – Number of wine gallons of alcoholic liquor shipped from a point in Illinois to a point outside Illinois pursuant to sale. Attach **Schedule C** for support.

Line 14 – Number of wine gallons of alcoholic liquor you sold tax-free to other Illinois licensed manufacturers or importing distributors. Attach **Schedule B** for support.

Manufacturers who sell bulk goods:

Report the sales on either Schedule B or Schedule C and treat them as deductions on Line 13 or 14. Include such bulk goods in the quantity you report as manufactured on Line 10. Attach **Schedule B and/or Schedule C** for support.

Line 15 – Number of wine gallons of alcoholic liquor you sold to holders of non-beverage user licenses. Attach **Schedule E** for support.

Note: Permits authorizing the purchase of alcoholic liquor for non-beverage purposes must accompany Schedule E.

Line 16 – Number of wine gallons of alcoholic liquor lost during bottling. This amount must be included in your inventory on Line 9. To deduct bottling losses, you must maintain accurate records and support the deduction by **Schedule J**.

Line 17 – Other deductions necessary to account for all alcoholic liquor manufactured or imported that is not subject to the tax. You must fully explain these deductions by completing Form RL-115, Other Illinois Liquor Tax Deductions. Attach your completed **Form RL-115** for support.

Line 18 – Number of wine gallons of alcoholic liquor you sold tax-free to authorized U.S. governmental agencies. Attach **Schedule N** for support.

Line 19 – Number of wine gallons of alcoholic liquor on hand and ready for sale at the close of business on the last day of the month for which you are filing this return. Also enter this amount on Step 2, Line 9, of your return for the succeeding month.

Line 22 – Number of gallons entered on Line 11c.

Line 24 – Complete your return using the preprinted tax rates on Line 24. If you file electronically using MyTax Illinois, the rates will be populated for you.

Line 26 – Add all columns' Line 25. This is the amount of your total tax due.

Line 27 – If you timely file and pay this tax electronically you are entitled to a discount. To determine the discount amount, multiply Line 26 by 2% (.02); compare the amount to the discount cap of \$2,000; and, enter the lesser on Line 27.

Line 28 – Subtract Line 27 from Line 26.

Line 29 – If you have a credit memorandum issued to you by us and wish to apply that toward your balance due, enter the amount of credit you wish to apply.

Line 30 – Subtract Line 29 from Line 28. Total amount you owe. If you do not pay the tax you owe by the due date, you will owe additional penalty and interest. We will bill you for penalties and interest you owe. For more information, see Publication 103, Uniform Penalties and Interest, which is available on our website at **tax.illinois.gov**.

Returned merchandise

If you returned alcoholic liquors to an out-of-state firm from whom you made the purchase, report your return as a sale in interstate commerce on Schedule C. Attach for support.

If alcoholic liquor on which tax has not been paid is returned to you, the shipper will report the transaction on Schedule B and you will report the transaction on Schedule F. Attach for support.

If alcoholic liquor on which tax has been paid is returned to you by a retailer or distributor, report the return on Schedule G. Attach for support.

If an out-of-state customer returned alcoholic liquor to you, report the return as an importation on Schedule A. Attach for support.

Step 3: Sign below

An owner or officer must sign and date Form RL-26. Also, include the title (state if an individual owner, member of the firm, or the specific corporate officer title) and a daytime phone number.

If you use a tax preparer, the preparer must complete the same information as the owner or officer.

Submission with CSV file in MyTax Illinois

The CSV (Comma Separated Value) file format is used for importing the RL-26 file directly to an Illinois Liquor Revenue Tax account. The import feature is recommended for users who have software that can create the CSV format. Using a spreadsheet program (e.g., Excel), columns are required to create a CSV file that is recognized and accepted by MyTax Illinois. You may also use a text file following the same formatting. The invoices should be sorted and grouped by schedule type (Column 1) before importing the file. The file should have no header row. The file must contain the following columns in this order:

	Field Name	Max Length	Data Type	Description
1st Column	Schedule Name	3 characters	Alpha and Numeric	Indicate which of the liquor return schedule the information in this entry belongs on by entering "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "J", "N", or "115"
2nd Column	Invoice Number	30 characters	ASCII characters, no commas	The invoice number this entry pertains to; only valid on entries where Column 1 = "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "N:", and "115"
3rd Column	Invoice Date	10 characters	Numeric	The date the transaction occurred; only valid on entries where Column 1 = "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "N:", and "115" Example: January 1, 2020 should be entered as "1/1/2020".
4th Column	FEIN	9 characters	Numeric	FEIN of company this entry pertains to; only valid on entries where Column 1 = "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "N:", and "115" "NOT VALID if Column 9 is "Y"
5th Column	Cider 0.5% to 7% or beer	29 characters	Numeric	Number of gallons for product type; allow up to 15 digits before decimal; allow remaining digits up to 29 total after decimal; round to nearest 1 millionth (6 decimal places); only valid on entries where Column 1 = "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "N:", and "115"
6th Column	Alcohol 14% or less	29 characters	Numeric	Number of gallons for product type; allow up to 15 digits before decimal; allow remaining digits up to 29 total after decimal; round to nearest 1 millionth (6 decimal places); only valid on entries where Column 1 = "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "N:", and "115"
7th Column	Alcohol >14% and ≤20%	29 characters	Numeric	Number of gallons for product type; allow up to 15 digits before decimal; allow remaining digits up to 29 total after decimal; round to nearest 1 millionth (6 decimal places); only valid on entries where Column 1 = "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "N:", and "115"
8th Column	Alcohol more than 20%	29 characters	Numeric	Number of gallons for product type; allow up to 15 digits before decimal; allow remaining digits up to 29 total after decimal; round to nearest 1 millionth (6 decimal places); only valid on entries where Column 1 = "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "N:", and "115"
9th Column	Foreign Country	1 character	Alpha	Notes if entry is for a source from a foreign country; enter "Y" to indicate foreign country; can be blank; only valid on entries where Column 1 = "A" or "C"
10th Column	Foreign Country Name	40 characters	Alpha	Name of Foreign Country; only valid if column 9 = "Y"
11th Column	Permit Num	30 characters	ASCII characters, no commas	Non-beverage Use Permit Number; only valid on entries where Column 1 = "E"

12th Column	Liquor Type	1 character	Numeric	The liquor type for this entry; must be "1", "2", "3", "4"; only valid on entries where Column 1 = "J"
13th Column	Wine gallons in tanks at beginning of month	29 characters	Numeric	Number of gallons for entry; allow up to 15 digits before decimal; allow remaining digits up to 29 total after decimal; round to nearest 1 millionth (6 decimal places); only valid on entries where Column 1 = "J"
14th Column	Wine gallons added to your tank	29 characters	Numeric	Number of gallons for entry; allow up to 15 digits before decimal; allow remaining digits up to 29 total after decimal; round to nearest 1 millionth (6 decimal places); only valid on entries where Column 1 = "J"
15th Column	Wine gallons in tanks at the end of the month	29 characters	Numeric	Number of gallons for entry; allow up to 15 digits before decimal; allow remaining digits up to 29 total after decimal; round to nearest 1 millionth (6 decimal places); only valid on entries where Column 1 = "J"
16th Column	Wine gallons bottled during the month	29 characters	Numeric	Number of gallons for entry; allow up to 15 digits before decimal; allow remaining digits up to 29 total after decimal; round to nearest 1 millionth (6 decimal places); only valid on entries where Column 1 = "J"
17th Column	Military	1 character	Alpha character	Notes if entry is for a sale to the military; enter "Y" to indicate sale to the military; can be blank; only valid on entries where Column 1 = N
18th Column	Deduction	25 characters	ASCII characters, no commas	Reason for deduction; must = "Breakage", "Defective", "Denaturation", "Non-Taxable Sale", "Theft", or "Witnessed Destruction"; only valid if Column 1 = "115"
19th Column	Name	40 characters	ASCII characters, no commas	Name of customer; valid on entries where Column 1 = "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", or "N"; valid on entries where Column 1 = "115" and Column 18 = "Non-Taxable Sale"
20th Column	Street	40 characters	ASCII characters, no commas	The street address of your customer; valid on entries where Column 1 = "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", or "N"; valid on entries where Column 1 = "115" and Column 18 = "Non-Taxable Sale"
21st Column	City	40 characters	ASCII characters, no commas	The city in which your customer is located; valid on entries where Column 1 = "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", or "N"; valid on entries where Column 1 = "115" and Column 18 = "Non-Taxable Sale"
22nd Column	State	2 characters	ASCII characters, no commas	The state in which your customer is located; valid on entries where Column 1 = "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", or "N"; valid on entries where Column 1 = "115" and Column 18 = "Non-Taxable Sale"; NOT VALID if Column 9 is "Y"
23rd Column	Zip	10 characters	ASCII characters, no commas	The zip code of your customer. A zip code of 5 or 9 digits is required. Example: 62568 or 62568-3214; valid on entries where Column 1 = "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", or "N"; valid on entries where Column 1 = "115" and Column 18 = "Non-Taxable Sale"; Enter "99999" if Column 9 is "Y" or if there is no applicable zip code

Example:

You are filing Schedule A, with invoice number 12345678, and invoice date 10/10/2026. Your FEIN is 123456789. Your shipper's name is ABC Liquor, Inc., located at 101 Any Blvd., Springfield, MA 60001-1234. The Cider 0.5% to 7% or beer gallonage is 150.123000. The record for the transaction would be reported as follows: CSV Spreadsheet Example (e.g., Excel)

A	12345678	10/10/2026	123456789	150.123000														ABC Liquor Inc.	101 Any Blvd.	Springfield	MA	60001-1234
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Text File Example (e.g., Notepad) A,12345678,10/10/2026,123456789,150.123000,,,,,,,,,,,,,ABC Liquor Inc.,101 Any Blvd.,Springfield,MA,60001-1234 Save your spreadsheet or text file using the file type "CSV (Comma delimited) (*.csv)" option. For text files, separate each field with a comma and each record with a hard return. Once you have your file saved in this format, you may use the "Import" option in MyTax Illinois.