

Understanding the Role of Alcohol Regulatory Enforcement in Order to Form Community Partnerships



2025-26 NLLEA Executive Board



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Left to right*

National Liquor Law Enforcement Association





Mission

Committed to improving standards and best practices for the enforcement of alcoholic beverage control laws and regulations.

Vision

The NLLEA pledges to strengthen and support our diverse membership through the promotion of networking, professional development, collaboration, and training.

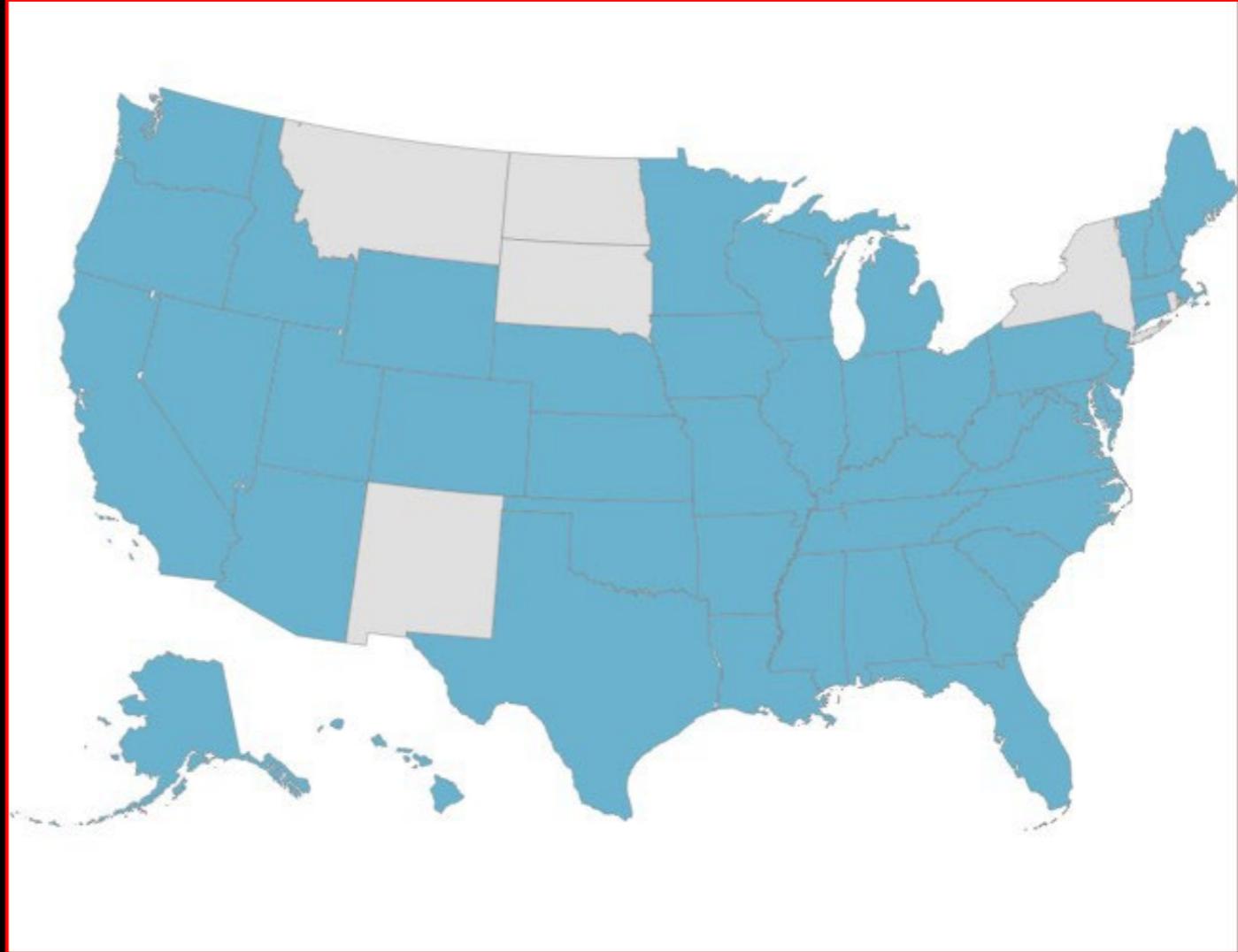
The NLLEA is dedicated to fostering relationships with its external partners through continued education of alcoholic beverage control laws and regulations to reduce crime and enhance public safety.

Values

Excellence, Integrity, and Professionalism



***NLLEA:
Membership
representation in
44 states and the
District of
Columbia with
over 1700
members***



NLLEA

Initiatives

- Alcohol Compliance Training (ACT)
- Record Management Systems for Alcohol Law Enforcement
- Direct to Consumer Workgroup Initiatives
 - Shipping/Delivery
 - Capacity Challenges
- Professional Development Committee
 - Best Practice Guidance Documents
 - Virtual Training Series
- Place of Last Drink Implementation & Evaluation (POLD)
- Annual Conference



Alcohol Compliance Training ACT

Presented by NABCA and NLLEA





Alcohol Compliance Training Project

- **Enhanced Knowledge and Skills:** Well-informed law enforcement officers will have a thorough understanding of alcohol-related laws, regulations, and best practices, enabling them to enforce these laws effectively and minimize violations.
- **Consistent Enforcement:** The training programs will foster consistency in alcohol law enforcement practices across jurisdictions, reducing disparities and ensuring a level playing field for businesses.
- **Safer Communities:** This proposal will enhance public safety by equipping law enforcement officers with the necessary tools and knowledge. It could also reduce alcohol-related incidents, including underage drinking and over-service.
- **Positive Relationship with Industry:** Informed officers will interact with restaurant/store owners and managers more effectively and respectfully, promoting a collaborative rather than adversarial approach to compliance.
- **Economic Impact:** A well-regulated and compliant alcohol industry increases consumer confidence, leading to more significant economic growth and stability.

Records Management Systems of Alcohol Regulatory Enforcement Agencies



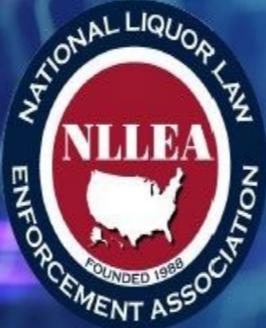
**Finding Solutions to Improve Alcohol Regulatory
Efficiencies and Practices**

Data collection is a critical nexus between alcohol regulation and public health



IJIS Institute

Records Management Systems of Alcohol Regulatory Enforcement Agencies



STANDARD FUNCTIONAL SPECIFICATIONS
FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT RECORDS
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS **VERSION III**

Records Management Systems (RMS) of Alcohol Regulatory Enforcement Agencies

FUNCTIONAL SPECIFICATIONS
Prepared by the IJIS Institute

May 2022





Understanding the Role of Alcohol Regulatory Enforcement

Navigating the Complexities of Alcohol Regulation

Typology-Structure-Framework

Typologies

State Alcohol Regulatory Agencies: Agencies that have primary responsibility for licensing of retail alcohol establishments, enforcement (criminal and/or administrative), and adjudication of administrative violations of alcohol laws

State Alcohol Enforcement Agencies: Agencies that have responsibility for enforcement only (criminal and/or administrative) but no authority over licensing of retail alcohol establishments or adjudication of administrative violations

State Alcohol Regulatory Agencies with Local Authority Options: Agencies that have primary responsibility for enforcement (criminal and/or administrative) and issue state licenses for retail alcohol establishments, but require dual licensing (some form of local licensing by local boards/councils, etc. beyond recommendations for approval/denial), and may share adjudication responsibilities with local boards/councils, etc. as well

County Alcohol Regulatory Agencies: Local alcohol beverage regulatory agencies that issue the retail licenses (no state retail license approval process), have administrative enforcement authority, and adjudication responsibilities

Local Law Enforcement Agencies: Local police departments, sheriff agencies, campus police departments that have primary responsibility for all criminal codes in their jurisdiction but may or may not have retail licensing or adjudication responsibilities over alcohol establishments.

Other: Non-profit agencies, government agencies, or state-level law enforcement agencies without primary authority for alcohol enforcement

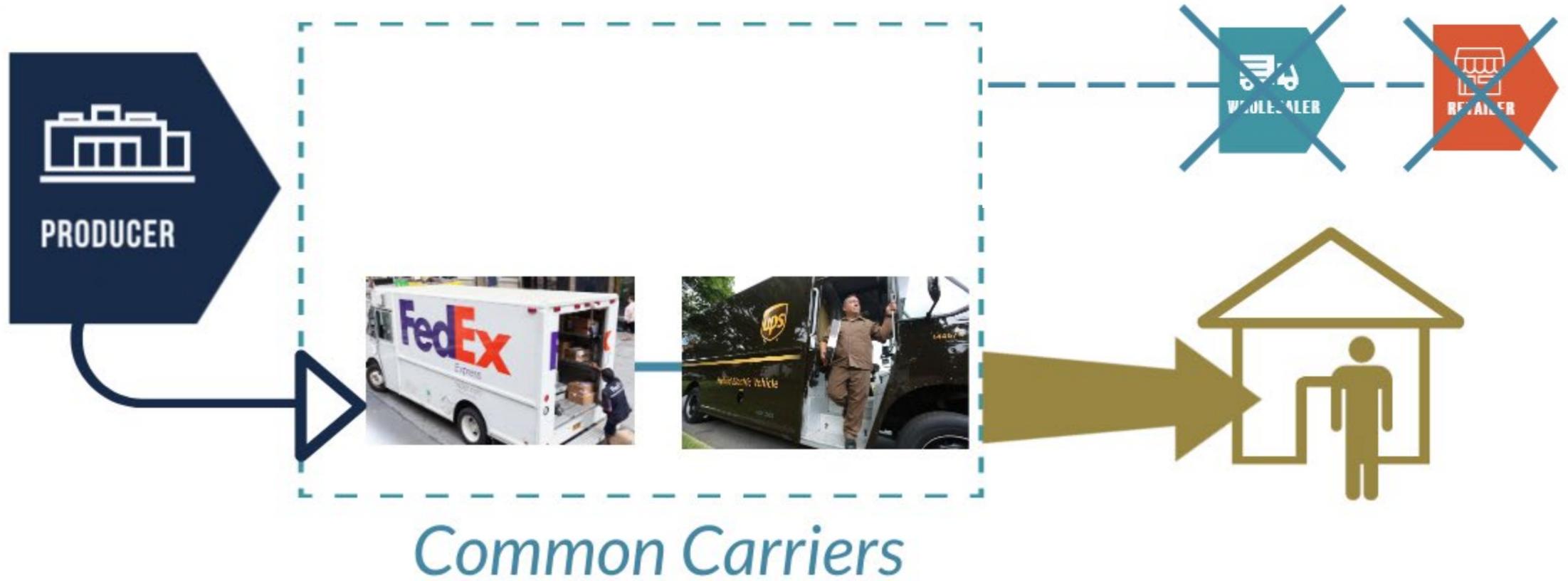
Direct to Consumer Workgroup Alcohol Delivery

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- Data Collection
 - Illegal/Unlicensed Shipment
 - Delivery to Minors
 - Tax Collection
 - Common Carriers
 - Fulfillment Warehouses
 - Third-Party Providers
 - Uniform Language



The Basics

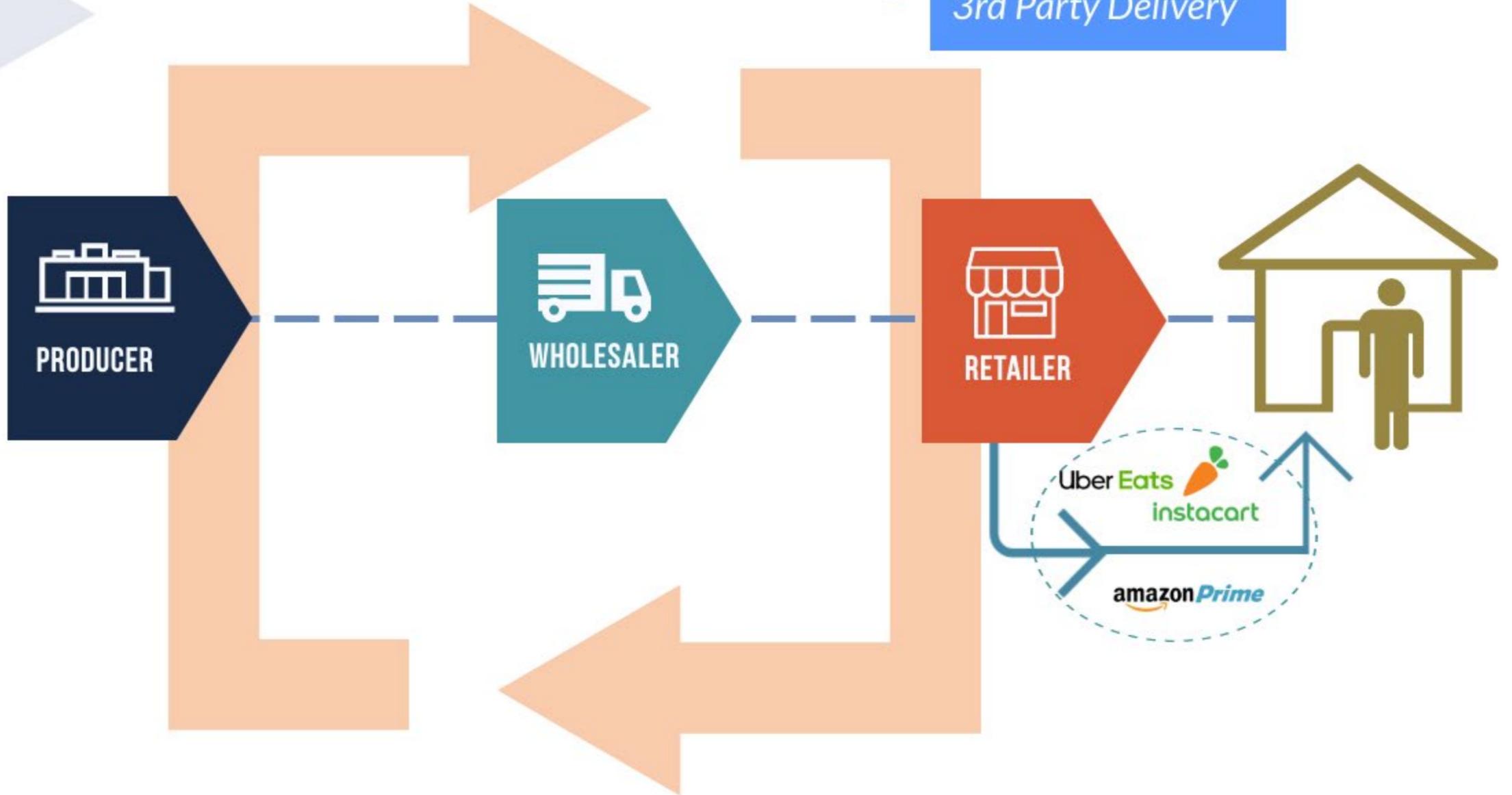
Direct Shipping



The Basics

Home Delivery

3rd Party Delivery



NLLEA Direct to Consumer Workgroup Best Practice Guidance Documents



Best Practice Guidance for Alcohol Sales and Deliveries During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic

A National Liquor Law Enforcement Association Guidance Document

December 2020

This document is intended to provide background and guidance on best practices for the enforcement of laws related to sales and delivery of alcohol both during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.¹

State alcohol policies during the COVID-19 pandemic have been temporarily² – and in some cases permanently³ – changed to expand consumers' access to and ability to acquire alcohol through drinks-to-go, home delivery, and curbside delivery. Some of these policies are being implemented by local jurisdictions, making the policy landscape more complicated.⁴

The pandemic is creating unprecedented shifts and changes in the alcohol marketplace adding additional challenges for Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE).⁵ In 2005, there were an

average of 54 ALE agents per state tasked with monitoring 14,112 alcohol outlets. This problem has only worsened over the years.⁶ The harms from alcohol have been further exacerbated by recent shifting policies⁷ in the U.S., which have made alcohol more accessible and available.

Making alcohol more widely available and accessible increases alcohol consumption and related harms.^{8,9} This may occur when there is an increase in the hours¹⁰ or days of sale,¹¹ an increase in outlet density,¹² or – as is the case during the COVID-19 pandemic – an expansion of home delivery laws.



Drinks-To-Go

Restaurants or bars selling a single serving of alcoholic beverages (usually distilled spirits) for consumption off the premises.



Home Delivery

Restaurants, bars, or retailers delivering alcohol to consumers' homes through either the use of their own employees or through a third-party delivery service.



Curbside Delivery

Consumers purchasing alcohol from a restaurant, bar, or retailer and having the business bring it to the consumers without them having to leave their car.

A list of all of the references cited in this document can be found on the NLLEA website: www.nllea.org

Best Practice Recommendations for the Delivery of Alcohol by Common Carriers - A National Liquor Law Enforcement Association Guidance Document

(A common carrier includes companies like FedEx, Red Ex Ground or UPS. They deliver packages and goods for different people and companies. For the purposes of this guidance document goods delivered are alcoholic beverages)



Guidance Document

April 2021



NLLEA Best Practice Guidance: Alcohol Home Delivery Compliance Operations

Executive Summary

Home delivery of alcohol, whether through direct shipping, 3rd party delivery drivers or deliveries made directly from the retail license holder, have increased access and availability for those under the legal drinking age of 21. With more than a quarter of U.S. states permitting home deliveries of at least one type of beverage alcohol and more than 40 U.S. states permitting the direct shipment of at least one beverage type, concerns over youth access to alcohol is on the rise, requiring alcohol regulatory authorities and Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) to come up with new and innovative ways to monitor these sales to prevent youth access.

The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) has gathered information from several of its member state agencies and compiled a Best Practice Guidance Document on how to conduct compliance operations for the delivery of alcohol.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for law enforcement and community coalitions that partner with their local law enforcement a how-to guide on setting up and conducting an underage compliance operation for delivery of alcohol. These are time and resource intensive operations unlike an underage compliance check at a brick-and-mortar licensed retail establishment. This guide will also assist in identifying budgetary items that may be needed to request funds for these types of operations.

Background

Alcohol compliance checks conducted in several states in response to complaints of youth accessing alcohol through home delivery or curbside delivery have shown high rates of non-compliance with alcohol being provided or sold to minors. Even before the pandemic, non-compliance with home delivery was documented by ALE and researchers as a serious concern for increased youth access to alcohol. In one study, almost half of underage buyers were able to order and receive alcohol with age verification being conducted inconsistently or ineffectively (Williams et al.). When underage drinking laws are properly enforced, underage alcohol consumption and related harms decrease.

Best Practice Guidance: Underage Compliance Operations for the Delivery of Alcohol

There are a number of factors to consider when setting up an alcohol delivery compliance check. This guide will discuss each step to consider before, during and after an operation.

Goal of the Operation

Consider the goal of the operation. Is it to educate, enforce or a combination of both? Determining the goal of the operation will help agencies to better plan for the resources needed for a safe operation.



Alcohol Law Enforcement Capacity Challenges



Outlet to Officer Ratio



Increased Access and Availability



Age Compliance Checks for Home Delivery



Resources



Initiating Place of Last Drink (POLD) Data Collection and Use at the Community Level

1. Build Partnerships and Shared Understanding
2. Gain Support from Law Enforcement
3. Develop a Standardized Collection Process
4. Establish Data Management and Analysis Support
5. Use the Data to Inform Prevention and Outreach
6. Evaluate and Communicate Results
7. Seek Funding or Technical Support

By convening partners, standardizing data collection, analyzing results, and turning insights into prevention and enforcement action, community coalitions can make POLD a cornerstone of their impaired driving prevention strategy.



Resources www.nllea.org - news - publications

NLLEA



NLLEA Place of Last Drink Case Study Reports 	
<p>Data Driven Decision-Making: A Case Study of Implementation and Use of projectR.A.B.I.T. in Chittenden County, Vermont</p> <p>August 2021</p>	<p>Place of Last Drink (POLD): A Case Study of Implementation of POLD by the Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery</p> <p>August 2022</p>
<p>Place of Last Drink (POLD): A Case Study of Vermont's Implementation of POLD using an Implementation Framework</p> <p>August 2023</p>	<p>Place of Last Drink (POLD): Opportunity for Expanding POLD Investigations to Alcohol-Involved Violent Crime Incidents</p> <p>August 2024</p>

Research Article

TRR
JOURNAL OF THE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

Transportation Research Record
1-10
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sagepub.com/journals-permissions
DOI: 10.1177/03611981251333722
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**Examination of Implementation of Place
of Last Drink Using a Framework of
Implementation Components**

Linda M. Bosma¹  and Carrie A. Christofes²

WHY SHOULD COMMUNITIES WORK WITH ALCOHOL REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT

- ARE agencies have the necessary expertise to enforce regulations related to the sale and consumption of alcohol. They can conduct compliance checks, investigate complaints, and take legal and administrative action when a violation occurs.
- While ARE may have the necessary expertise, they may not always have the necessary resources. By collaborating with these agencies, communities can help to provide those resources and ensure that alcohol-related activities are conducted safely and legally.
- Help to shed light on enforcement capacity challenges faced by ARE regarding increased access to alcohol with no increase in ARE support.
- Without adequate ARE capacity, reactive efforts are often the only feasible option community coalitions and public health professionals can work with and support ARE agencies to gather and analyze ARE capacity data to show the big picture and tell the story of their states' capacity to provide monitoring and compliance of alcohol access expansion.

HOW CAN COMMUNITY COALITIONS CONNECT WITH **ALCOHOL REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT**

Community Coalitions can support these strategies by working with ARE to help recruit underage age buyers for compliance checks, by providing education and awareness programming for licensed establishments on responsible beverage service and through grant funding initiatives that support reduced access to alcohol.

Research your state and/or local alcohol law enforcement agencies and identifying key contacts. Use the ARE typology definitions to guide this process and determine the structure of your ARE and their capacity to collaborate.

Reach out to these contacts and introduce your coalition and its mission. Be specific about how your coalition can support their mission as well.

Invite ARE representatives to attend coalition meetings and events. Include them as speakers and trainers at your meetings. Also have speakers and trainers relevant to their mission.

Collaborate with ARE agencies to develop and implement evidence-based strategies to reduce alcohol-related harms in your communities. It is important for ARE to have a seat at the table in the planning stage.

Maintain open communication with ARE representatives to ensure ongoing collaboration and success.

NLLEA Annual Conferences



National Liquor Law Enforcement Association

The 2026 NLLEA Annual Conference
The Westin New Orleans
September 21-23





National Liquor Law Enforcement Association

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