# **EXAMINATION REPORT**

# Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board Fine Wine and Good Spirits Store 0242

4524 Broadway Boulevard Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146 For the Period October 3, 2024 to August 25, 2025

October 2025



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018
Facebook: Pennsylvania Auditor General
Twitter: @PAAuditorGen
www.PaAuditor.gov

TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR AUDITOR GENERAL

The Honorable Darrell Clarke, Chairman Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board 518 Northwest Office Building Harrisburg, PA 17124

#### Dear Chairman Clarke:

We have performed an examination of Fine Wine and Good Spirits Store 0242, Allegheny County, District 3-11, operated by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB). We examined store operations for the period October 3, 2024 to August 25, 2025.

This report presents the results of the Department of the Auditor General's examination of store operations under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB). The examination was conducted under statutory authority provided under 47 P.S. § 3-306 of the Pennsylvania Liquor Code.

This examination was conducted only to the extent that we considered necessary to determine if the wine and spirits store operated in compliance with PLCB operating procedures. The examination was not conducted, nor was it required to be, in accordance with professional auditing or attestation standards.

#### Our examination included:

- Conducting a physical inventory count for a selection of liquor codes and comparing our results to the store's perpetual inventory records to determine whether inventory differences in excess of \$200 in value exists for these codes;
- Reviewing deposits, consisting of cash and checks deposited manually and credit and debit card receipts deposited electronically, to determine whether deposits were appropriately accounted for and agreed with PLCB financial records;
- Reviewing Clerk Performance Reports, Ad Hoc Reports, Shipment Invoices, and Transfer Reports to determine the store's compliance with PLCB internal controls;

- Performing a count of all cash on hand to determine whether the store's cash on hand agrees
  with supporting store documents and bank records, and verifying whether the total store
  operating fund charged to the store agrees with the amount provided by the PLCB;
- Performing tests of Licensee Sales, Tax-Exempt Sales, Minor Challenges, System Prices, Register Voids, Register Deposits, and Breakage/Adjustment Controls to determine whether store operations were in compliance with PLCB operating procedures;
- Selecting liquor codes and verifying that the sales price in the store system agrees to the PLCB's approved price list; and,
- Locating and verifying that all PLCB capital assets are present at the store and comparing our results to the PLCB fiscal year asset equipment list for accuracy.

The results of our examination found that Fine Wine and Good Spirits Store 0242 operated in compliance with all PLCB operating procedures falling within the scope of our examination, except as noted in the following finding and discussed later in this report. This matter was discussed with appropriate personnel and is intended to assist you in improving internal controls.

Finding – Inventory Discrepancy Exceeding \$200 in Value - Repeat Finding

We would like to thank store management for their cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the examination.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact the Bureau of Liquor Control Audits at (717) 783-1236.

Sincerely,

Timothy L. DeFoor Auditor General

Timothy L. Detool

October 1, 2025

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#### **BACKGROUND**

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) operates a diverse network of retail and wholesale distribution facilities across the Commonwealth, including Premium Collection Stores, One-Stop/Supermarket Stores, Taste & Learn Stores, Lottery Locations, Wholesale Stores/Licensee Service Centers (LSCs) and an online E-Commerce Store. Each of these store types serves a distinct function – ranging from public retail and licensee fulfillment to education, special product releases, and bulk distribution.

The Department of the Auditor General's authority to examine PLCB store operations is derived from Section 306 of the Pennsylvania Liquor Code (47 P.S. § 3-306).

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FINE WINE AND GOOD SPIRITS STORE 0242 FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

# Finding – Inventory Discrepancy Exceeding \$200 in Value – Repeat Finding

#### **Condition**

A random sample count of 52 liquor codes, comprised of 1,672 units valued at \$49,140.80, was performed on August 26, 2025, and included 2 recently returned codes in this sample. We compared PLCB perpetual inventory records for the 52 liquor codes to actual inventory on hand. The perpetual inventory records and the actual inventory count matched for 45 codes; however, for the remaining 7 codes, the actual inventory count did not agree with the perpetual inventory records that are noted below.

Discrepant Code Item Number	Physical Count	Perpetual Inventory	Difference	Retail Cost Per Unit	Total Value
1*	29	41	(12)	\$27.99	(\$335.88)
2	39	43	(4)	\$47.99	(\$191.96)
3*	128	130	(2)	\$21.99	(\$43.98)
4	26	28	(2)	\$34.99	(\$69.98)
5*	48	49	(1)	\$32.99	(\$32.99)
6	27	28	(1)	\$34.99	(\$34.99)
7	1	2	(1)	\$109.99	(\$109.99)

<sup>\*</sup> These codes were also noted as a discrepancy in the prior examination report.

On August 27, 2025, PLCB management was notified of the differences between actual inventory and the PLCB's perpetual inventory records so that the PLCB could investigate the differences and make appropriate adjustments to its inventory records.

A similar condition was noted in the two most recent examinations of this store; however, we have not received corrective action for the two prior examinations which may have contributed to the noncompliance.

# **Criteria**

The PLCB Manual of Instructions, Chapter 710-14, Random/Complete Physical Inventory Comparison establishes procedures that require store management to maintain accurate perpetual inventory records.

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FINE WINE AND GOOD SPIRITS STORE 0242 FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

#### Finding – (Continued)

# **Cause**

The acting manager indicated that discrepancies could be related to a shipment error since the store was short one case (12 pack). He also indicated that the discrepancies could be related to theft and clerk processing errors while at the register or on licensee orders.

#### **Effect**

Unacceptable inventory discrepancies demonstrate an inability to properly manage PLCB merchandise, reduce the ability of the Board to accurately maintain records of profit and loss, and may result in a reduction in PLCB revenue.

#### Recommendation

We again recommend that the Board investigate this situation and take whatever action it deems necessary to bring inventory discrepancies within the parameters established by the Board. Furthermore, the Board should monitor inventory levels and work with store employees to detect and correct inventory discrepancies in a timely manner.

#### **Management Response**

The acting manager agreed with the discrepancies and will make a correcting inventory adjustment.

#### **Examiner's Conclusion**

As indicated in the Condition above, it was disclosed that three of the discrepant inventory codes were also noted as discrepancies in our prior inventory counts and reported to PLCB. Since corrective action was not received from management and the prior management response cited similar attributes, we again recommend that management/clerks ensure they are also verifying codes scanned at the register and during shipments and implementing procedures to deter theft and improve the accuracy of internal inventory counts in order to avoid continued losses in inventory.

During examination of breakage and adjustments reports, it was noted that zero of the discrepant codes noted above, found during this random inventory count were the same codes adjusted between April 1, 2025 and June 30, 2025.

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FINE WINE AND GOOD SPIRITS STORE 0242 FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

# <u>Finding – (Continued)</u>

Based on an examination of the 20 most recent shipment invoices, the codes listed above did not disclose any issues during deliveries.

We are concerned by the failure to comply with the prior findings and encourage compliance at the earliest opportunity to do so. Compliance along with any subsequent corrective action taken will be subject to verification in the subsequent examination.

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FINE WINE AND GOOD SPIRITS STORE 0242 PRIOR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

# **Random Sample Shortages**

Our prior examination of a random sample of the store's inventory reported an inventory discrepancy exceeding \$200 between actual and perpetual inventory. Store management failed to comply with our recommendation (see Finding).

#### **Wholesale Purchase Permit Card**

Our prior examination reported noncompliance with PLCB Wholesale Purchase Permit Card procedures – Wholesale Purchases Made with Inactive (Expired) License. Store management complied with our recommendation.

#### **Tax-Exempt Sales**

Our prior examination reported noncompliance with PLCB Tax-Exempt Sales procedures – Improper Documentation. Store management complied with our recommendation.

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FINE WINE AND GOOD SPIRITS STORE 0242 REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

#### The Honorable Darrell Clarke

Chairman Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board

#### **Faith Deitrich**

Assistant Director
PLCB Audit Services Division/Bureau of Audits
Pennsylvania Office of the Budget

#### Rodrigo Diaz

Executive Director Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board

#### **Angela Blecher**

Chief Financial Officer Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board

# **Angela Schaul**

Director of Store Operations Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at <a href="www.PaAuditor.gov">www.PaAuditor.gov</a>. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: <a href="mailto:news@PaAuditor.gov">news@PaAuditor.gov</a>.