EXAMINATION REPORT

Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board Fine Wine and Good Spirits Store 1514

161 East Swedesford Road Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087 For the Period July 23, 2024 to August 18, 2025

September 2025



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



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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 1514, Chester County, District 1-06, operated by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB). We examined store operations for the period July 23, 2024 to August 18, 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 1514 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

September 23, 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).

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

Condition

A random sample count of 60 liquor codes, comprised of 2,972 units valued at \$110,766.18, was performed on August 19, 2025. We compared PLCB perpetual inventory records for the 60 liquor codes to actual inventory on hand. The perpetual inventory records and the actual inventory count matched 42 codes; however, for the remaining 18 codes, the actual inventory count did not agree with the perpetual inventory records. The discrepancies are noted below.

| Discrepant Code Item Number | Physical Count | Perpetual Inventory | Difference | Retail Cost Per Unit | Total Value |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 9 | 119 | (110) | \$19.99 | (\$2,198.90) |
| *2 | 119 | 144 | (25) | \$35.99 | (\$899.75) |
| *3 | 248 | 268 | (20) | \$9.99 | (\$199.80) |
| 4 | 85 | 99 | (14) | \$19.99 | (\$279.86) |
| 5 | 48 | 60 | (12) | \$64.99 | (\$779.88) |
| *6 | 346 | 356 | (10) | \$17.99 | (\$179.90) |
| 7 | 2 | 11 | (9) | \$19.99 | (\$179.91) |
| 8 | 54 | 60 | (6) | \$59.99 | (\$359.94) |
| 9 | 24 | 30 | (6) | \$69.99 | (\$419.94) |
| 10 | 33 | 37 | (4) | \$51.99 | (\$207.96) |
| 11 | 2 | 4 | (2) | \$499.99 | (\$999.98) |
| 12 | 10 | 11 | (1) | \$259.99 | (\$259.99) |
| 13 | 4 | 3 | 1 | \$8.99 | \$8.99 |
| *14 | 29 | 28 | 1 | \$47.99 | \$47.99 |
| 15 | 42 | 41 | 1 | \$19.99 | \$19.99 |
| 16 | 6 | 2 | 4 | \$349.99 | \$1,399.96 |
| 17 | 11 | 4 | 7 | \$44.99 | \$314.93 |
| 18 | 284 | 276 | 8 | \$19.99 | \$159.92 |

^{*} These codes were also noted as discrepancies in the prior examination report.

On August 21, 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.

Finding – (Continued)

A similar condition was noted in the three prior examinations of this store. Although we received corrective action for the 2024 examination report addressing similar inventory concerns, procedures were either not implemented or not operatively effective to prevent their re-occurrence.

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.

Cause

Contributing factors include, but are not limited to, theft, malfunctions in the inventory management system, failure to properly adjust inventory records and failure by store employees to properly accept or dispatch inventory transfers and shipments. Also, the manager indicated an error may occur when making an adjustment to convert gift sets to single units.

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 management agreed with discrepancies.

Finding – (Continued)

Examiner's Conclusion

As indicated in the Condition above, it was disclosed that four of the discrepant inventory codes were also noted as discrepancies in our prior inventory counts and reported to PLCB. Although a corrective action plan was received from management addressing similar areas for improvement, since 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 six of the discrepant codes noted above, found during this random inventory count were the same codes adjusted between April 01, 2025, through June 30, 2025, as illustrated below:

| Discrepant | D | | | |
|-------------|--------|--|----------|----------|
| Code | Reason | Description | T I *4 ~ | Data |
| Item Number | Code | Description | Units | Date |
| 1 | 87 | Stock In | 1 | 04/07/25 |
| 1 | 1801 | (+) Physical Inventory Adjustment / Correction | 120 | 05/29/25 |
| 3 | 122 | Defective container with contents intact or unsaleable | | |
| | | accessories | -1 | 06/21/25 |
| 10 | 1801 | (+) Physical Inventory Adjustment / Correction | 24 | 06/14/25 |
| 12 | 1801 | (+) Physical Inventory Adjustment / Correction | 6 | 06/24/25 |
| 13 | 1801 | (+) Physical Inventory Adjustment / Correction | 5 | 04/29/25 |
| 18 | 123 | Pushed cork, loose or leaky cap, broken enclosure or | | |
| | | spout | -3 | 04/24/25 |

The examiner noted that an adjustment of 120 units for Code 100037633 was made on 05/29/2025 per the adjustment reports data from April 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. The General Manager could not research the 05/28/2025 shipment or 05/29/2025 adjustment in question since SIM was deactivated and the Store Inventory Operations Cloud Services was implemented in July of 2025. (The shipment invoices were also examined for 05/28/2025 but they did not show any discrepancies.) The adjustment may explain the discrepancy of this code during the random inventory count.

Errors or inaccuracies with these adjustments could have contributed to the discrepancies noted above.

<u>Finding – (Continued)</u>

Based on an examination of the 30 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 three 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.

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).

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 1514 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 www.PaAuditor.gov. 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: news@PaAuditor.gov.