# **EXAMINATION REPORT**

# Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board Fine Wine and Good Spirits Store 2506

350 West Columbus Avenue Corry, Pennsylvania 16407 For the Period September 23, 2024 to September 6, 2025

October 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 2506, Erie County, District 3-06, operated by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB). We examined store operations for the period September 23, 2024 to September 6, 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 2506 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 1% of the Value Examined - 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 7, 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 2506 FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

# Finding – Inventory Discrepancy Exceeding 1% of the Value Examined – Repeat Finding

# **Condition**

A random sample count of 68 liquor codes, comprised of 1,980 units valued at \$38,638.26, was performed on September 8, 2025. We compared PLCB perpetual inventory records for the 68 liquor codes to actual inventory on hand and found discrepancies with an error rate greater than 1% of the value examined or \$386.38. The perpetual inventory records and the actual inventory count matched 59 codes; however, the following 9 codes had discrepancies between the actual inventory and the perpetual inventory records:

Discrepant Code Item Number	Physical Count	Perpetual Inventory	Difference	Retail Cost Per Unit	Total Value
1	11	20	(9)	\$52.99	(\$476.91)
2*	39	46	(7)	\$37.99	(\$265.93)
3	34	40	(6)	\$18.99	(\$113.94)
4	18	19	(1)	\$31.99	(\$31.99)
5	4	5	(1)	\$10.99	(\$10.99)
6	25	26	(1)	\$19.99	(\$19.99)
7	76	75	1	\$14.99	\$14.99
8	48	44	4	\$25.99	\$103.96
9	95	83	12	\$13.99	\$167.88

<sup>\*</sup> This code was also noted as a discrepancy in the prior examination report.

During examination of breakage and adjustments reports, it was noted that two of the discrepant items noted above, found during this random inventory count were the same items adjusted between May 1, 2025, through July 31, 2025, as illustrated below:

Discrepant Code Item Number	Reason Code	Description	Units	Date
2	87	Stock In	1	7/18/2025
6	87	Stock In	1	7/18/2025

An error or inaccuracy with these adjustments could have contributed to the discrepancies noted above.

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

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FINE WINE AND GOOD SPIRITS STORE 2506 FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

# <u>Finding – (Continued)</u>

On September 8, 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 three 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 stores management to maintain accurate perpetual inventory records.

# Cause

Contributing factors include but are not limited to the modification of the checkout counter, which the general manager noted was adjusted to allow space for a wheelchair in front of the endcap closest to the store's cash register. This change reduced the available counter space and may have caused some clerks to mis-scan larger walk-in licensee orders since the checkout counter is now smaller. He also noted on the shipment September 2, 2025, was over one case, and the correction has not yet been made.

# **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.

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FINE WINE AND GOOD SPIRITS STORE 2506 FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

### Finding – (Continued)

# **Management Response**

The general manager agreed with the finding. Once the general manager receives confirmation from the district manager, he will make the adjustments. The general manager will also discuss with all the store clerks the importance of carefully scanning all bottles for licensee orders.

# **Examiner's Conclusion**

As indicated in the above Condition, it was disclosed that one of the discrepant inventory items was also noted as discrepant in the prior examination count and reported to PLCB. Since corrective action was not received from management addressing similar areas for improvement and procedures were not implemented or operating effectively to prevent their recurrence, we again recommend that management strengthen overall controls relative to monitoring store inventory and remain proactive in the area of asset protection to avoid continued variances/losses in store inventory.

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 2506 PRIOR FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

# **STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION**

# **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).

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FINE WINE AND GOOD SPIRITS STORE 2506 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
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# **Angela Schaul**

Director of Store Operations Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board

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