

FAQ:

I would like to open a brewery, winery, cidery, etc. Which use category does my business fall into?

Background:

Per [A-301.1.5](#), a use registration permit is required for every new use commenced on any land or in any structure. Because these business models are very diverse, it is difficult to place the uses into one category. These uses vary in size, function, and impact on the neighborhood (noise, vibration, odor, traffic, etc.). Additionally, it is not uncommon for these businesses to fit into both an Eating and Drinking Establishment Use category (typically a Sit-Down Restaurant) and an Industrial Use Category (Artisan, Limited or General).

Answer:

Typically, a brewery, winery, or cidery will fall into one or more of the uses listed below. Note, that the industrial uses are mutually exclusive; if a proposed business is industrial in nature, it will fall into just one industrial category. Refer to [14-601](#) for the full definition of each use.

Sit-Down Restaurant

14-601(7)(f)(.3)

- Brewed on-site and primarily consumed-on site (sale of growlers, crowlers, etc. are permitted for off-site consumption)
- No distribution of beer, wine, etc. for off-site consumption (no kegs, bottles, cans)
- These uses function as bar/restaurants

Artist Studios and Artisan Industrial

14-601(10)(a)

- Brewed by hand or using small scale equipment.
- No outdoor operations, storage or regular commercial truck parking/loading.

Limited Industrial

14-601(10)(b)

- Brewed on-site and shipped off-site (kegs, bottles, cans, etc.).
- Typically uses smaller scale equipment and the impacts are not detectable beyond the property lines.
- Note: An [Accessory Tasting Room](#), that provides samples of wine, beer, etc. is permitted. Samples are typically included with a tour of the facility and are limited in quantity (i.e. in exchange for a ticket or token), the tasting room shall not function as a primary use.

General Industrial

14-601(10)(c)

- Brewed on-site and shipped off-site (kegs, bottles, cans, etc.).
- Typically uses large scale equipment and the impacts are detectable beyond the property lines.
- Note: An [Accessory Tasting Room](#), that provides samples of wine, beer, etc. is permitted. Samples are typically included with a tour of the facility and are limited in quantity (i.e. in exchange for a ticket or token), the tasting room shall not function as a primary use.

L&I Permit and License Center

1401 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Municipal Services Building, Public Service Concourse
Open 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Offices close at noon on the last Wednesday of each month.

Questions?

Call 311 or (215) 686-8686 (if outside Philadelphia) or submit a permit-related question online via <https://form.jotform.com/81494420572154>.

Disclaimer:

This interpretation, policy or code application is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code application to specific projects may vary. There may be other ways to comply with the Code. If so, you are not required to use this method. You may want to investigate other options, or consult with a professional identifying an equally code compliant solution.

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