



Instructions for Form MT-50

Beer Tax Return (and Similar Fermented Malt Beverages) and Schedules A and B (Form MT-50), C (Form MT-51), and D (Form MT-52)

Visit our website for alcoholic beverages tax bulletins (see *Need help?*). The bulletins provide information to help distributors comply with their New York State alcoholic beverages tax obligations.

General information

Who must file Form MT-50

Distributors and noncommercial importers must complete Form MT-50 and pay the alcoholic beverages tax due on beer.

When to file Form MT-50

A distributor must file Form MT-50 each month on or before the 20th day of the following month, even if no tax is due.

Noncommercial importers must file Form MT-50 for every month in which they imported beer into the state.

Annual filing option

Distributors may elect to file on a calendar-year basis, provided certain qualifications are maintained:

- A person must be licensed as a beer distributor solely because they are engaged in the production of beer and be licensed with the State Liquor Authority (SLA) as either a microbrewery, farm brewery, farm meadery, or as a restaurant brewer. To qualify as a microbrewery, less than 60,000 barrels (1,860,000 gallons) of beer per year may be produced. A barrel of beer equals 31 gallons for computation purposes. You may make this election at any time during the calendar year by filing Form MT-38, *Application for Annual Filing Status for Certain Liquor, Beer, and Wine Manufacturers*, with a copy of your current SLA microbrewery, farm brewery, farm meadery, or restaurant brewer's license and returning it to the address shown on that form.
- The distributor does not hold another license with the SLA that requires them to file Form MT-50 on a monthly basis.

Note: When you apply for annual filing status, you must continue to file monthly returns until the Tax Department notifies you that your request to file annually has been received and approved. Your first annual filing will cover the period beginning with the month of approval through the end of the calendar year.

The distributor must notify the Tax Department if they no longer meet the necessary qualifications for annual filing status. Under these circumstances, the distributor must file an abbreviated annual return based on the period ending with the month the qualifications were no longer met. Thereafter, the distributor must file monthly returns for the remainder of the calendar year. To reapply for annual status in a subsequent year, the distributor must send a letter to the Tax Department, including an explanation of the activities that resulted in the disqualification and a summary of how the circumstances have changed. Mail the letter to:

**NYS TAX DEPARTMENT
ABT RETURNS PROCESSING UNIT
W A HARRIMAN CAMPUS
ALBANY NY 12227-0863**

Note: When requesting reinstatement to annual filing status, you must continue to file monthly returns until the Tax Department notifies you that your request has been received and approved.

The annual return is due on or before the 20th day of the following January.

Definitions

Beer includes all alcoholic beer, lager beer, ale, porter, stout, braggot, and all other fermented beverages of any name or description manufactured from malt, wholly or in part, or from any substitute containing one-half of 1%, or more, of alcohol by volume.

Distributor, as used with respect to beer, is any person who imports (or causes to be imported) into New York State (NYS), beer for sale or for any commercial purpose; any purchaser of warehouse receipts for beer stored in a warehouse located in NYS who causes the removal of such beer from the warehouse; and any person who produces, brews, or manufactures, within NYS, beer that is offered for sale.

Noncommercial importer, as used with respect to beer, is any person (other than a distributor) who imports (or causes to be imported) into NYS beer that will not be offered for sale or used for any commercial purpose.

However, persons purchasing beer outside NYS as an incident to a journey and bringing such beer back into NYS in the quantities and under the circumstances specified as exempt in Tax Law section 424.4 are not deemed to be noncommercial importers and, thus, will not have to file this return. For information on the section 424.4 exemption, see *Traveler's exemption* in TB-AB-245, *Exempt Sales and Uses of Alcoholic Beverages*.

Person is an individual, copartnership, limited liability company, society, association, corporation, joint stock company, or any combination of individuals. Person also includes an executor, administrator, receiver, trustee, or other fiduciary.

Use is any compounding or mixing of alcoholic beverages with other ingredients (or other treatments) that renders them unfit or unsuitable for consumption as a beverage. Use also includes the actual consumption or possession for consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Tax period and taxpayer identification

Monthly filers: Enter month and year for the period covered by this return.

Change of business information – Enter your legal name and complete mailing address if they are not preprinted on the form. If the printed information needs to be changed, make corrections on the form **and either** select the option to change your address on our website (see *Need help?*) or submit Form DTF-95, *Business Tax Account Update*. If only your address needs to be changed, you can submit Form DTF-96, *Report of Address Change for Business Tax Accounts*, instead of Form DTF-95. You can get these forms from our website or by phone; or call the Miscellaneous Tax Information Center for assistance (see *Need help?*).

Distributor: Enter your business telephone number, beer tax registration number (B #), employer identification number (EIN) or Social Security number (SSN), and SLA license number.

Noncommercial importer: Enter your SSN and *N/A* for the beer tax registration number and the SLA license number.

Nature of business – Mark an **X** in the appropriate boxes to indicate whether the business is a manufacturer, importer, or both.

No business this period – Mark an **X** in this box if you did not import into NYS, cause to be imported into NYS, or manufacture beer during the period being reported on this return. Sign, date, and mail your return to the address shown under *Where to file*.

Cancel registration – Mark an **X** in this box if you are filing a final return and requesting that your registration be canceled. Complete this return for your operations during the period and send it to the address shown under *Where to file*.

Amended return – Mark an **X** in this box if this return amends a previous return. Enter the filing period covered by the amended return in the space provided. The amended return should indicate the correct figures for that period—not the difference between the amount previously reported and the new figures. A full explanation of the changes must accompany the amended return.

Rounding to whole gallons

The tax on beer is calculated on the basis of whole gallons.

Complete and accurate records must be maintained for the actual volume of beer sold, purchased, and manufactured, whether the amounts are whole or partial gallons. However, each **total** must be rounded to whole gallons for tax purposes.

A quantity of less than one-half gallon (0.5) should be rounded down to the nearest whole gallon. A quantity of one-half gallon or more should be rounded up to the nearest whole gallon.

Line instructions

Distributors who do not maintain inventory in NYS: Skip lines 1 through 6. Enter on line 7 beer imported into NYS during the month for sale or use in NYS.

Noncommercial importer: Complete only Schedule A (except for the *Registration number or federal EIN* column), lines 3, 5, 7, 13, 15, and 16 through 24, if applicable.

Line 8 – Enter the number of gallons deducted for loss and waste on the premises. This deduction must be fully explained on a separate sheet and is subject to approval.

Line 16 – Enter an amount in the *New York City* column only if you sold beer in New York City (NYC) or sold beer to a purchaser whose licensed premises are located in NYC. If you are a distributor, enter the number of gallons from Form MT-53, *Schedule E – New York City*, line 8. If you are a noncommercial importer, enter the number of gallons of beer imported or caused to be imported into NYC.

Line 18 – Compute the amount of NYS and NYC tax due. Multiply the amount on line 16 by the rate per gallon shown on line 17 and enter the result.

Line 19 – Enter the total amount of any adjustments from prior returns. Enter negative amounts using a minus sign (-). Deduct any overpayment or add any underpayment from previous returns. Include amounts from any debit or credit memoranda sent to you from the NYS Tax Department. Attach a complete explanation.

Note: If you filed an amended return to report NYS or NYC changes to a prior return, you may **not** claim that adjustment on line 19.

Line 20 – If line 19 is a positive amount, **add** lines 18 and 19 within the appropriate column. If line 19 is a negative amount, **subtract** line 19 from line 18 within the appropriate column. Add the amounts from the *New York State* and *New York City* columns and enter the results in the *Total* column. This is the net tax due.

Lines 21 and 22 – Compute the appropriate penalty and interest amounts, if applicable, and add the amounts from the *New York State* and *New York City* columns and enter the results in the *Total* column.

Line 21 – Penalty is imposed at the rate of 10% (0.1) of the amount of tax due for the first month or fraction of a month that the tax remains unpaid, plus 1% (.01) for each subsequent month or fraction of a month that the tax remains unpaid, up to a maximum penalty of 30% (0.3) of the tax due.

If a return is filed more than 60 days after its due date, the minimum penalty becomes the lesser of \$100, or 100% of the tax required to be paid.

Line 22 – Interest is computed at the rate set by the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance and is compounded daily. It is computed from the day the tax was due until the day the tax is paid. Interest is a charge for the use of state money and may not be waived.

Note: You may compute your penalty and interest by accessing our website and clicking on Online Services, or you may call and we will compute the penalty and interest for you (see *Need help?*).

Fee for payments returned by banks – The law allows the Tax Department to charge a \$50 fee when a check, money order, or electronic payment is returned by a bank for nonpayment. However, if an electronic payment is returned as a result of an error by the bank or the department, the department won't charge the fee. If your payment is returned, we will send a separate bill for \$50 for each return or other tax document associated with the returned payment.

Instructions for Schedules A, B, C, and D

Schedule A – Tax-Free Purchases (Form MT-50)

Report the total of all tax-free purchases made by you in NYS during the period covered by the return. Include in this schedule all beer on which the NYS alcoholic beverages tax was not paid that was returned to you for credit by your customers. Do not include any beer that you returned to your supplier for credit if the beer was originally purchased in NYS free of the NYS alcoholic beverages tax. All purchases and returns may be reported as a one-item total from each source. However, bonded warehouse withdrawals must be listed separately by warehouse name, release number, and warehouse address.

Schedule B – Tax-Paid Purchases (Form MT-50)

Report the total of all tax-paid purchases made by you in NYS during the period covered by the return. Include all beer on which the NYS alcoholic beverages tax was paid that was returned to you for credit by your customers. Do not include any beer on which the NYS alcoholic beverages tax was paid that you returned to your supplier for credit if the beer was originally purchased in NYS. All purchases and returns may be reported as a one-item total from each source.

Schedule C – Out-of-State Sales (Form MT-51)

Report all tax-free sales of beer made to customers outside NYS. Use a separate schedule for each state.

To sell beer tax free to an out-of-state purchaser, possession of the beer must be transferred to the purchaser at a point outside NYS. If an out-of-state purchaser (or his or her agent) takes possession of beer within NYS, a taxable sale has taken place. The alcoholic beverages tax is due on that sale and is not refundable to you.

If applicable, attach **two** completed copies of Form MT-51 to Form MT-50.

Schedule D – Tax-Free Sales (Form MT-52)

Report all tax-free sales of beer. Include:

- qualifying sales of beer to the United States government or its agencies or instrumentalities, diplomatic missions and diplomatic personnel, and the United Nations;
- beer sold between registered beer distributors; and
- beer furnished by a licensed producer of alcoholic beverages at no charge to a customer or prospective customer at a tasting for consumption at the tasting.

Attach a completed copy of Form MT-52 to Form MT-50.

Where to file

Attach your remittance to the return and mail to:

NYS TAX DEPARTMENT
ABT PROCESSING
PO BOX 15196
ALBANY NY 12212-5196

Private delivery services – If not using U.S. Mail, see Publication 55, *Designated Private Delivery Services*.

Need help?



Visit our website at www.tax.ny.gov

- get information and manage your taxes online
- check for new online services and features

Telephone assistance

Miscellaneous Tax Information Center:	518-457-5735
To order forms and publications:	518-457-5431
Text Telephone (TTY) or TDD equipment users	Dial 7-1-1 for the New York Relay Service

Privacy notification

New York State Law requires all government agencies that maintain a system of records to provide notification of the legal authority for any request for personal information, the principal purpose(s) for which the information is to be collected, and where it will be maintained. To view this information, visit our website, or, if you do not have Internet access, call and request Publication 54, *Privacy Notification*. See *Need help?* for the Web address and telephone number.