

compliance audits, process and verify excise tax reports and oversee compliance with financial requirements of the Alcoholic Beverage Code. For information, call (512) 206-3300.

The Ports of Entry Section assures compliance with personal importation laws and collects taxes and administrative fees on alcoholic beverages imported from Mexico. They also monitor compliance with laws regarding importation of cigarettes into Texas and collect applicable taxes. Agency personnel are stationed at all major bridges along the Texas-Mexico border. For information, call (512) 206-3351.

The Seller Training Section regulates seller training schools that train retail employees on responsible alcohol service. For information, call (512) 206-3420.

### **LEGAL**

The Legal Section's staff review and prosecute administrative violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Code by permittees and licensees, as well as review and prosecute protests to the issuance of original and renewal licenses and permits. These protests may be filed by the Commission, local authorities and/or private citizens. The Legal Section also handles general legal work for the Commission and responds to legal inquiries from the public, permittees and licensees. For information, call (512) 206-3490.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION INITIATIVES**

TABC strives to provide the public with information about the agency, alcoholic beverage laws, and programs related to responsible behavior and the prevention of underage drinking. The agency's main web site ([www.tabc.state.tx.us](http://www.tabc.state.tx.us)) provides general information as well as an e-mail address to send specific questions and complaints to the agency. The agency co-sponsors a web site specific to underage drinking: [www.2young2drink.com](http://www.2young2drink.com). TABC also uses press releases and public service announcements to support its seasonal law enforcement efforts. For information, call (512) 206-3347.

### **Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission**

**5806 Mesa Drive**

**P.O. Box 13127**

**Austin, Texas 78711**

**512-206-3333 (Information)**

**1-888-THE-TABC (Complaints)**

**TDD 512-206-3270**

**[www.tabc.state.tx.us](http://www.tabc.state.tx.us)**



# *Who we are, What we do*

*...serving the State of Texas  
since 1935*



# Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.



*Greetings:*

*The TABC was established in 1935 as the state regulatory agency covering all phases of the alcoholic beverage industry in the State of Texas. The duties of the Commission include regulating sales, taxation, importation, manufacturing, transporting, and advertising of alcoholic beverages.*

*The TABC collects in excess of \$200 million annually in taxes and fees, which aids in the financing of the state's public schools, local governments, research, human services, and other areas in which state government provides services to all Texans.*

*We are proud of our employees and their adherence to their responsibilities in the auditing and collecting of taxes, the enforcement of the alcoholic beverage laws, the issuance of licenses and permits, and most of all, serving the people of Texas.*

*As you review this material, you will learn more about the Commission and its duties, functions, and responsibilities. We welcome your comments.*

*Sincerely,*

*Alan Steen  
Administrator*

## **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATION**

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (formerly the Texas Liquor Control Board) was created in 1935.

Under the Alcoholic Beverage Code, the TABC "shall inspect, supervise and regulate every phase of the business of manufacturing, importing, exporting, transporting, storing, selling, advertising, labeling and distributing alcoholic beverages, and the possession of alcoholic beverages for the purpose of sale or otherwise."

"This code is an exercise of the police power of the state for the protection of the welfare, health, peace, temperance and safety of the people of the state."

The 21st Amendment, which signalled repeal of national prohibition in the 1930s, allows each state to control the importation and use of alcoholic beverages within its boundaries. This is probably the only remaining right guaranteed more or less exclusively to the states.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code was enacted to protect against involvement of the criminal element in alcoholic beverage trafficking. The Legislature has very strictly prohibited persons who have been convicted of certain crimes from obtaining licenses or permits. Also prohibited are "tied house" violations where ownership overlaps the three marketing levels (manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing) in the alcoholic beverage industry.

The separation of marketing levels is closely scrutinized. TABC employees review all shipments of alcoholic beverages into Texas, as well as any transfer of merchandise between wholesalers. Background investigations and other research are undertaken when a person applies for a permit or license to operate in some phase of the industry. Efforts are made to detect ownership by others involved at different levels, as well as those factors which could tend to disqualify an applicant, such as previous criminal history or indebtedness to the state for taxes.

## **ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

The Enforcement Division, the agency's largest and most visible division, enforces the Alcoholic Beverage Code and other laws of the state. Commissioned peace officers conduct investigations involving minors in possession, public intoxication, bootlegging, prostitution, gambling, narcotics, weapons and organized criminal activities. Enforcement agents also provide regular instruction to school children, licensees and their employees, and members of civic groups, to promote a better understanding of the law and encourage voluntary compliance. For information, call (512) 206-3400.

The Grants Section enhances the agency's current programs and initiates new programs through grant funding. The agency has moved ahead in an aggressive effort to educate the state's youth and to curb underage drinking through programs primarily funded by grant money. The agency's grant programs have been implemented successfully at the grass-roots and community level statewide. For information, call (512) 206-3430.

The Marketing Practices Section oversees the labeling, bottling, and promotion of alcoholic beverage products. For information, call (512) 206-3400.

## **LICENSING DIVISION**

Regulatory control of the alcoholic beverage industry is established through the process of issuing more than 60 different types of licenses and permits. Each year, the Licensing Division issues approximately 100,000 licenses and permits throughout the world. An individual must hold the proper license or permit to be able to operate in the alcoholic beverage business. For information, call (512) 206-3360.

## **COMPLIANCE DIVISION**

The Compliance Division ensures the proper amount of taxes and fees have been reported and paid by licensees and permittees. They perform