

OREGON PRIVILEGE TAX ONLINE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About Privilege Tax

Q: What is Privilege Tax?

A: The Oregon Liquor & Cannabis Commission (OLCC), considers "privilege tax" to be the fees, set by Oregon Legislature, charged to businesses for the privilege of importing, exporting, or distributing certain alcoholic products such as wine, cider, and malt beverages in Oregon.

Q: What is Oregon Privilege Tax Online?

A: Oregon Privilege Tax Online (OPTO) is the online solution for businesses required to file privilege taxes, submit documentation, and pay fees (taxes) through a web-based portal. Instead of filing monthly and/or annual reports via US Mail, or email, and in lieu of payment by check, cash, or money order, privilege tax licensees will be able to file reports and pay with ACH transfer from a checking or savings account.

Q: Why are we going online?

A: House Bill 2150 (HB2150) was requested during the 2017 legislative session by the alcohol industry (distributors and manufacturers) for an online privilege tax payment system. HB2150 directs the OLCC to allow manufacturers or importing distributors of wine, cider or malt beverages to file required statements and pay privilege taxes by electronic means.

Q: When will I be able to file online?

A: OLCC began phasing licensees onto OPTO in February, 2021 and continue to bring licensees on with our monthly winery, wine self-distributors, and direct shipping customers beginning 7/15/2022. The annual wineries will their first report on OPTO on or before 1/20/2023. Privilege Tax licensees will be notified several weeks before their phase begins for training and account set-up.

Q: How will I be notified of training or implementation?

A: It is imperative to validate the business owner and current filer has their valid email address in our licensing system. This is the address all communication will be sent to throughout this conversion.

Q: If I already have a business account and license set up, how do I add a (new) license type?

A: You will go into your business account and add the new license type(s) being implemented. For example, if you have a CERA license set up on OPTO already, go back into your account set up and add the new license type (Winery, Wine Self Distributor, or Direct Shipper). Easy peasy!

Q: What if I use a compliance company to do my reporting/filing?

A: If you have already set up a business account on OPTO and set up the user/filer as a compliance company, they can add the additional license type(s) as described before.



Q: Will this affect my tax rate?

A: No. Only changes by the State Legislature can change tax rate(s).

Q: Will the forms change?

A: There is a difference in the manner which information is captured as the information will be entered by the licensee, not by sending or emailing paper copies. This makes the information, or data, accurately entered by the licensee, sent electronically, and available for reporting. Also, it stops the duplication, or redundancy, of the information requested on the old forms. Lastly, the system aides in keeping reporting for each license current and compliant.

Q: Will I still be able to file on paper like I always have?

A: No. Once each license type is converted, only historical reporting will be done manually. All privilege tax filings and payments will be required to go through the Oregon Privilege Tax Online web portal.

Q: I don't have any activity; do I still need to submit statements?

A: Yes. Consistent with current rules and regulations, zero activity statements will need to be submitted. We have developed a quick method to do "zero reporting" by checking a box there is no activity and submitting. Easy peasy!

Q: I have someone else prepare my Privilege Tax Statements, will they be able to submit for me?

A: When you set up your 'business account', you will set up 'filers' who you authorize to do your reporting. It is important to keep this information current and accurate on your account. The person who submits the monthly statements will certify the information is correct on the owner's behalf.

Q: What if I need to make changes to a report I have already submitted?

A: The Oregon Privilege Tax Online system allows for easy amendment of filed statements. The amended version of the report will become the new official report, while the old version will stay available for review and records.

Q: How do I get access to the new Oregon Privilege Tax Online System?

A: A link to the new system will be available on our [website](#) account. Once a primary user has created their accounts, additional business e-mails may be listed as authorized users which will then be prompted to create their own user accounts.

Q: What if I get stuck or just need some assistance?

A: Good news! OLCC has contracted with our software vendor SICPA to provide helpdesk support by phone or by email.

