

185—4.20(123) Liquor store checks accepted. The Iowa state liquor stores and the division may accept checks from holders of a retail liquor control license, including a class “E” licensee, under the following conditions:

1. The check must be either the personal check of the licensee or the business check of the licensee. The business check must be the named establishment on the license and cannot be a check on another business owned or operated by the licensee.

2. The check must be signed by the licensee. (For all holders of liquor control licenses this is interpreted as those persons whose authorized signatures are on file with the bank for the licensee’s account). However, this does not preclude an agent of the licensee from presenting a check signed by the licensee in the normal transaction of buying liquor.

3. Traveler’s checks and bank drafts, signed by the licensee, will be accepted.

4. Personal checks or traveler’s checks may be accepted as payment for purchases in state liquor stores. Second party checks shall not be accepted as payment for purchases in state liquor stores. Vendors shall follow the policy established by the administrator of the division for accepting personal checks and traveler’s checks for the purchase of alcoholic beverages.

4.20(1) If a licensee presents this division with a check which is subsequently dishonored by the licensee’s bank, the administrator of this division shall cause a written notice of nonpayment and penalty to be served upon the licensee. If the licensee fails to satisfy the obligation within ten days after service of the notice, the administrator or designee shall hold a hearing as in other contested cases pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A to determine whether or not the licensee failed to satisfy the obligation within ten days after service of the notice of nonpayment and penalty. If the administrator determines that the licensee has failed to satisfy the obligation, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, the administrator shall suspend the licensee’s liquor control license for a period of not less than 3 and not more than 30 days.

4.20(2) A retail liquor establishment which tenders the division one insufficient funds check for the purchase of alcoholic liquor will lose its check-writing privilege for 90 days from the date the establishment pays the division even though the division does not suspend the liquor license because the establishment paid the division within the 10-day demand period. A retail liquor establishment which tenders the division more than one insufficient funds check for the purchase of alcoholic liquor will lose its check-writing privilege for 180 days from the date the establishment pays the division even though the division does not suspend the liquor license because the establishment paid the division within the 10-day demand period.

During the period that a licensee may not tender checks to the state liquor stores or this division in payment for alcoholic liquor, state liquor stores and this division may accept from the licensee: cash, money order payable to the division for the amount of the purchase, bank cashier’s check signed by a bank official and made payable to the division for the amount of the purchase, or the licensee’s personal or business check made payable to the division for the amount of the purchase which has been certified by the bank on which the check is drawn.

4.20(3) The division may collect from the licensee a \$10 fee for each dishonored check tendered to the division by a licensee for the purchase of alcoholic beverages.

4.20(4) The division may accept from the general public for alcoholic beverages traveler’s checks issued in a foreign country if payment is in U.S. dollars.

4.20(5) The division may require, at the discretion of the administrator, that a licensee submit a letter of credit in a reasonable amount to be determined by the administrator for future purchases of alcoholic liquor from the division, when a licensee tenders to the division a check which is subsequently dishonored by the bank on which the check is drawn if the licensee fails to satisfy the obligation within ten days after service of notice of nonpayment and penalty.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 123.4 and 123.24.