Florida
dbpr Department of Business
& Professional Regulation

Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco
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Jonathan Zachem, Secretary   **Rick Scott,** Governor

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The Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco will launch a substantial upgrade of the Electronic Data Submission (EDS) system with an enhanced user interface beginning Monday, August 28, 2017. The system launch marks the completion of an intensive, two-year system development initiative that has been designed to equip system users with more convenient, more reliable reporting tools that add efficiency to the required reporting processes.

As a current report filer in the EDS system, you will have the opportunity to begin utilizing the advanced system features immediately upon launch for completing the August monthly report due on or before September 11, 2017. This notice provides important information outlining the system upgrades which may impact your user experience in the EDS system in future reporting cycles.

Additional information and help resources are available on the Division's website at http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/abt/eds/tutorials/index.html. As always, the EDS Support Team is available on a daily basis to assist you by e-mail.

> **Due to system maintenance needed for launching the upgraded EDS features, the EDS system will be offline and unavailable from 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 24, 2017, until 8:00 a.m., Monday, August 28, 2017. To prepare for this system transition, please save any data entered in your account and log off the EDS system before system maintenance begins at 5:00 p.m. on August 24, 2017.**

The upgraded EDS system will include modified and expanded features with additional user tools throughout the reporting process. Many of the new features are highlighted below as a preview for your reference:

Enhanced Reporting Process with New User Features
In the upgraded EDS system, EDS filers now will be able to:

- sort and edit transaction details within the monthly report;
- upload transaction details in bulk using a common .CSV file template;
- link multiple license accounts under one EDS system account.
- print reports and screens with improved printing formats;
- prompt the system to carry forward the ending inventory from an immediately preceding monthly report;
- delegate the reporting process to other users as needed; and
- streamline reporting on some alcoholic beverage reports.

Other design and information features will also enhance the navigability and clarity of the reporting process for current and new EDS filers.

Direct Posting of Differential Malt Beverage Pricing via EDS
Malt beverage distributors now will be able to file notices of differential pricing on malt beverage products based on order quantity, location of sale, and other factors using a

simplified direct reporting form in the EDS system. The new price posting functions will eliminate the need for paper filings and the delay of postings submitted by e-mail and subsequently posted to the effective differential pricing list. The system upgrades will afford malt beverage distributors the convenience of posting differential prices in the same system where monthly reports are being filed.

Accordingly, the price posting e-mail address that has been utilized to date will be discontinued on August 24, 2017. All malt beverage distributors will be able to file differential price notices through the upgraded EDS system beginning August 28, 2017.

As price notices are filed in EDS, the system will also provide enhanced public access to finding effective price differentials by licensed distributor and by individual product type through new, easy-to-use search functions that facilitate quicker, more reliable access to the particular product and distributor information being queried by the user. These enhancements will advance the purposes of differential price postings and add value for industry and other stakeholders who take interest in these pricing details.

<u>Automated Application of Credits to Monthly Tax Liabilities</u>

To expedite and simplify the filing of monthly reports, eligible tax credits now will be automatically deducted from the user's tax liability on a monthly report when unused credits are available in the user's account. For licenses with credits earned from contributions to eligible non-profit scholarship organizations, the credit records must be submitted via e-mail to eds.support@myfloridalicense.com by the 6th day of the month in which the report is required to be filed for the preceding month's transactions in order to ensure the system is updated with eligible credits available for use in the monthly report.

<u>Automated Collection Allowance Determinations on Late Reports or Late Payments</u>

In an effort to audit more efficiently and in an expedited manner for the licensee, the upgraded EDS system will automatically determine collection allowances for a monthly report based on the time the report or payment is filed in the system. If a collection allowance is disallowed based on the timeliness of filing the report or payment, the disallowance will most often occur at the time of reporting in the EDS system.

With these system advancements, the upgraded EDS system continues to be the most efficient and most reliable means for licensees to submit the reports required by Florida law each month. As you begin using the upgraded system features, the Division welcomes your feedback and suggestion for additional system improvements that may simplify or enhance the user experience in the reporting process. Please contact our EDS Support Team at eds.suppport@myfloridalicense.com to submit suggestions or to obtain assistance with any inquiries related to the upgraded reporting process.

On behalf of our entire team working to implement these reporting process improvements, thank you for being among the 75% of reporting licenses that have enrolled in electronic report filing through EDS. Your participation in electronic filing has been integral to the updates achieved through this system development initiative and will continue to support efficient reporting and auditing processes required by Florida law.

Sincerely,

Ben Pridgeon
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Auditing