LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL SPIRITS COMPETITION

COMPETITION GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

INTERNATIONAL ENTRIES

Los Angeles International Spirits Competition
Judging March 31 – April 1, 2027
Mr. Mark Newman, Spirits Chairman

The Los Angeles International Spirits Competition and its panel of esteemed judges invite you to participate in the 21st anniversary competition.

1. **ENTRY FEE** [1] – Early Bird - $280 per entry received before January 29, 2027, $305 per entry beginning January 30, 2027. *(See RTD and Liqueur competition documents for pricing).* Payment may be made by credit card: Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover, by U.S. check payable to: "Los Angeles County Fair Association", or by wire transfer. Please email a copy of the wire transfer to the Competitions office at competitions@fairplex.com. Entry fee must accompany entry form to be eligible for competition.

   *Early bird discounted fees must be paid by January 29, 2027, to qualify.
   *All other entry fees must be received by the entry deadline March 5, 2027, to be entered to the 2027 competition.

   ### Wire Transfer Information

Bank:	Fifth Third Bank, N.A.
Bank Representative:	Blanca Salcedo + 1 (630) 801-2846
Bank Address:	38 Fountain Sq Plaza, Cincinnati, OH. 45202
Beneficiary Account No:	7029167553
Account Name:	Los Angeles County Fair Association Account 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona, CA 91768 USA
Reference:	"Spirits Competition"
ACH/Wire Routing No:	042000314
Swift Code:	FTBCUS3C

2. **SHIPPING** – International spirits will be accepted through March 12, 2027. Shipments are received on weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. All spirits entered MUST BE SHIPPED PREPAID. The competition is not responsible for any customs or shipping charges.

   Spirit Products being sent to the competition from outside the U.S. require an FDA number, FDA Prior Notice, pro forma invoice and Cola Waiver before shipping to:

   Los Angeles County Fair Association
   c/o: Los Angeles International Spirits Competition
   1101 W. McKinley Ave.
   Pomona, CA 91768

   Please include the entry form and fees with spirits in box marked #1, OR you may mail them separately.

[1] *Entry fees are non-refundable*
[2] *Entries after submitted, become property of the Los Angeles International Spirits Competition*

International shipments of spirits must be cleared by a licensed broker with applicable importing licenses. If you have an importer, it is best to use your own importer. If you do not have an importer, you can contact Mark Newman with Accolade Brands, mark@accoladebrands.com to provide this service.

REGISTERED FDA NUMBER: You must obtain registration with the FDA (see below). If you have an FDA registration number, you might need to renew your account information with the FDA. Renewals should have been completed by December 31, 2026. Otherwise, new registration may be required:https://www.fda.gov/food/guidance-regulation-food-and-dietary-supplements/registration-food-facilities-and-other-submissions.

An Authorized US Agent is required for all new and renewed FDA Permits. Accolade Brands can assist you with this service for 265 Euros (95 Euros is for the Producer Registration and 170 Euros is for the US Agent fee) for the 2 year 2027/2028 calendar years registration which goes through December 31, 2028. The FDA also requires a UFI or a DUNS number. If your company does not have a DUNS number, we will request one for you. The fee is 25 Euros. It is best to fill out the form at the end of the guidelines and email to Mark Newman, mark@accoladebrands.com. You can file for your permit; however, a US FDA Agent will have to verify the application and there will still be a fee.

FDA Prior Notice: Mark Newman with Accolade Brands, mark@accoladebrands.com, can assist with this service. You must file a Prior Notice with FDA online before shipping. https://www.fda.gov/industry/prior-notice-imported-foods/filing-prior-notice-imported-foods. If you are unsure about filing the FDA Prior Notice you can contact Mark Newman at Accolade Brands to perform this service for those producers that do not have an importer or FDA US Agent. See below the fees charged for these services.

TTB SAMPLE WAIVER (COLA WAIVER): All sample shipments to the US must be accompanied by a TTB Sample Waiver issued to a Federal and State Licensed Importer. The typical waiting time is five to seven business days if all the paperwork is in order. https://www.ttb.gov/import-export/itd/importing-alcohol-for-trade-shows

If you do not have an importer, the Los Angeles International Spirits Competition works with Accolade Brands to clear shipments. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE ACCOLADE BRANDS TO CLEAR SHIPMENT PLEASE CONTACT **MARK NEWMAN, ACCOLADE BRANDS, (818) 390-3888 FEDERAL TTB IMPORT LICENSE # CA-I-15220. EMAIL MARK@ACCOLADEBRANDS.COM BEFORE SHIPPING**.

- Payment must be prepaid by credit card through PayPal to Accolade Brands. Your shipping documents should indicate that you will pay for all Customs Charges. If you do not properly designate that you will pay the customs fee, your customs fees must be paid by credit card or wire transfer within 72 hours from billing.
- **CONSIGNEE**:

  ACCOLADE BRANDS INC.
  IN CARE OF: LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL SPIRITS COMPETITION
  1101 W. MCKINLEY AVENUE
  POMONA, CA 91768 USA
  Phone 818-390-3888

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- ACCOLADE BRAND – FEES:
  - FDA Prior Notice – 25 Euros per Company
  - FDA Food Facility Registration – 95 Euros per Company (only needed if you have not previously registered with the FDA)
  - FDA Agent Filing – 170 Euros for the 2 year permit per Company. FDA requires that you have a USA Agent. The permit is issued for the one remaining calendar year through December 31, 2026. This is required by the FDA for your shipment to legally arrive in the United States.
  - Permit Renewals – permits issued in 2027/2028 permit period, will automatically be renewed in December 2028 for the period of January 1, 2029, through December 31, 2030. The renewal will be 85 Euros per year for a total of 170 Euros.
  - UFA DUNS Number – The FDA also requires an UFA (Unique Facility Identifier) DUNS number. The fee for the UFI number is 25 Euros.
  - Customs Charges – Taxes & Duty are to be paid by each producer
    Contact Mark Newman via email: mark@accoladebrands.com, phone: 818-390-3888

- Please complete a Proforma Invoice that includes the quantity, name and type of spirit (i.e, rum, whiskey, vodka, tequila, etc.) and the alcohol content. **YOU MUST DESIGNATE THAT YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR ALL U.S. CUSTOMS CHARGES ON YOUR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING DOCUMENTS OR AIRWAY BILL**(generally known as DDP). Accolade Brands is not responsible for U.S. Customs & Brokerage Charges and if this is not done properly, your shipment could be delayed until we receive payment for these charges. If the shipment is large enough for commercial airfreight, we must collect estimated tax, duty, and customs charges in advance. The commercial value for samples is typically one Euro per bottle and this should be stated on a pro-forma invoice.

  - **Option 1** – Use UPS, FedEx, or DHL. Please charge your UPS, FedEx, or DHL account and include payment of all Customs Charges. The shipment must be DDP, Tax and Duty to be paid by the producer.

    We require a credit card number just in case you have not completed the shipping forms correctly and you will only be billed for any excess charges or taxes that are billed to our account for your shipment.

  - **Option 2** – Airline airfreight or DHL. This is usually a more expensive option than UPS or FedEx.
    All SPIRITS BOTTLES: Must have a label affixed to the back of the bottle that contains the US Government Warning: The phrase "Contains Sulfites" and the phrase "Trade Samples – Not for Resale." The words "Government Warning" must appear in capital letters and in bold type. The remainder of the statement may NOT appear in bold type. The statement MUST appear as a continuous paragraph. The statement reads as follows and should be 2mm to 3 mm in size.

> **GOVERNMENT WARNING:** (1) ACCORDING TO THE SURGEON GENERAL, WOMEN SHOULD NOT DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING PREGNANCY BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF BIRTH DEFECTS.
> (2) CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IMPAIRS OUR ABILITY TO DRIVE A CAR OR OPERATE MACHINERY, AND MAY CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS.
> **Trade Samples – Not for Resale – Contains Sulfites**

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3. **ENTRIES** [2] – An entry shall consist of at least three (3) bottles. PLEASE LIST CLASS/CATEGORY NUMBERS ON ENTRY FORM. Entries are assigned random judging codes and then placed on storage racks in our cellar separated into categories. All deliveries should be received by the shipping deadline **(March 12),** allowing ample time for spirits to recover from transportation bottle shock before being judged. Before judging, servers place codes on the tasting glasses, and the products are carefully poured into the proper glasses. The coded tasting glasses are then placed in front of each judge. Each judge tastes the spirit product and makes selections independently.

4. **JUDGING**: The Los Angeles International Spirits Competition uses a 100-point scoring system based on Appearance, Aroma, Taste, and Finish.

   The decision of the judges is final, and no changes will be made to awards after the judging is complete.

5. **AWARDS & MEDALS**: We award Gold, Silver, Bronze Best of Class, Best of Division and Best of Show. An award or medal is given to a distiller for a particular spirit product, a specific type or blend, produced. Best of Class awards will be awarded by division, category. Best of Class spirit products will compete for Best of Division. Best of Division spirit products will compete for the "Best of Show Award". The Los Angeles International Spirits Competition will offer, for purchase, Best of Show, Best of Division, Best of Class, Gold, Silver, and Bronze award seals to the producers that won these awards.

6. **RESULTS**: April 12, 2027, the competition results will be posted on the website www.LASpiritsComp.com.

7. May 6 - 31, 2027 is the Los Angeles County Fair. All International Competition award-winning products will be displayed in the Tasting Room. There will also be gold medal wine and olive oil tastings, and education seminars featuring entrants from Olive Oil, Wine, Spirits and Dairy competitions in the Tasting Room education classroom.

For more information, please contact our International Competitions Dept., (909) 865-4538 or e-mail Competitions@fairplex.com

www.LASpiritsComp.com

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