



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
OF LIQUOR JURISDICTIONS
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES SOCIÉTÉS DES ALCOOLS

May 26, 2014

Attention: All Canadian Trade Associations

RE: Adoption of Code 128 Bar Code Formats

I am pleased to announce that the CEOs of all Canadian liquor jurisdictions, provinces and territories, have unanimously adopted a National Quality Assurance Committee (NQAC) recommendation to include Code 128 as an acceptable bar code format for use on shipping containers (cartons). This agreement was reached through an extensive consultation process with NQAC members that included surveys to assess potential impacts on existing shipping and receiving operations within member jurisdictions. Subsequently, a commitment was required from all members to implement changes to their warehouse and retail operations to ensure all bar code scanners are capable of scanning subsets A, B and C - Code 128 formats.

The current CALJ – *Product Identification Standards for use in the Distribution of Beverage Alcohol Products* permit the Interleaved Two of Five and UCC/EAN bar code formats. Revisions to this standard are not planned at this time, however, adoption of Code 128 bar codes by all Canadian liquor jurisdictions comes into effect immediately.

We are confident that inclusion of the Code 128 formats will provide our trading partners greater flexibility in complying with CALJ bar code requirements. This is particularly the case for small vendors who ship limited quantities on an annual basis to the Canadian market. We also anticipate this change will help improve operational efficiencies by eliminating the need to implement timely and costly corrective re-work previously required to bring these codes into compliance.

Your assistance in sharing this information with your members would be greatly appreciated. Inquires should be directed to the appropriate contacts within each Canadian liquor jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Stephen Cater
Director, LCBO Quality Assurance

Copy: Bob Peter – LCBO President and Chief Executive Officer
George Soleas – LCBO Executive Vice President
Nancy Cardinal – LCBO SMi Senior Vice President
Bill Kennedy – LCBO Executive Director, Corporate Communications
Patrick Ford – LCBO Executive Director, Corporate Affairs
Rowland Dunning – CALJ Executive Director
NQAC Committee Members