

Rare Vintage & Specialty Product Auction

Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated: March 20, 2019

How is the product packaged?

Each bottle comes packaged in a wooden box as you see pictured.



Can individuals submit alcoholic beverages that they already own to be sold on consignment in future product auctions?

No. All items offered through product auctions are new and original products procured by the PLCB directly from the manufacturers of those products or through their authorized representatives. Consignments are not accepted. Also, the sale of liquor by unlicensed entities is generally prohibited by law in Pennsylvania.

If somebody bids say \$27,000, will the auction webpage be updated to reflect that bid and/or if the reserve has been met?

As specified in the product auction terms and conditions, bid amounts will be publicly available following completion of the auction process, both for the winning bid amount and any eligible non-winning bids. However, individual consumers' names and other personal information will not be publicly disclosed, as this information is protected from disclosure under the Liquor Code. To be clear, bids will not be opened until after the conclusion of the auction entry period, so no bid amounts will be available until after the auction is completed.

What is the Rare Vintage & Specialty Product Auction?

Fine Wine & Good Spirits occasionally has the opportunity to purchase very rare wine and/or spirits. In an effort to equitably distribute these products and provide the maximum benefit to the commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board developed a sealed bid auction process to award the opportunity to purchase these unique products. To bid for the opportunity to buy an auction product, consumers and active retail licensees should review the product auction terms and conditions before completing a bid sheet found on the auction webpage.

How are these items selected?

The items designated for auction are determined solely at the discretion of the PLCB. The decision is based on several factors including product rarity and potential demand.

How many items will be included in an auction?

There is no set number. The decision will depend on the number of products available and may vary by auction.

How do I know these items are authentic?

Each bottle comes with a unique serial number handwritten on the back label, which you can register with The Macallan. Instructions are included in the box that holds the bottle. This is what establishes the provenance. We acquired these products directly through the manufacturer and their in-state supplier.

Who is allowed to participate in an auction?

Any individual consumer 21 years of age or older (regardless of residence) and any licensee with an active retail license may bid in product auctions.

Do you have to be a resident of Pennsylvania to participate in a product auction?

No, you don't have to be a resident of Pennsylvania to participate in a product auction.

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Can licensees participate?

Yes, any licensee with an active retail license can participate in product auctions.

How do I submit my bid?

You must include a fully completed, signed bid sheet, as well as a \$2,500 surety in the form of a cashier's check or certified check, in a sealed envelope. You can submit more than one bid for each product, but you only need to include one surety per product. If you are bidding on two different products, you will need two cashier's or certified checks for \$2,500 each. The completed package must be mailed or carried by hand to:

PLCB Purchasing & Contract Administration Division
Product Auction
Northwest Office Building, Room 312
Harrisburg, PA 17124-0001

Bids must be received no later than 4 p.m. EDT on April 5, 2019.

What is a surety?

The surety is a \$2,500 deposit that will be returned to non-winning bidders. If someone submits the winning bid for a product and then fails to remit full payment for the product, the PLCB will retain the bid surety.

Can the surety be a personal check?

No, the \$2,500 surety must be a cashier's check or certified check.

Will my surety be returned if my bid is not selected as the winning bid?

Yes, your surety will be returned if your bid is not the winning bid.

What is a reserve?

It is an undisclosed amount that must be met in order for the PLCB to complete the sale.

What happens if the reserve amount is not met?

If the reserve amount is not met, the PLCB has the right to withdraw the product(s) from the auction and to make any product available for sale in a subsequent auction or through other sales channels.

Is there a minimum bid required?

Yes, there is a minimum bid amount set for each product in an auction. The minimum bid amount for each product is displayed on the auction webpage. Each bid must meet or exceed the minimum bid amount to be eligible.

Am I limited on how many bids that I may submit?

There is no limit. You can submit multiple bids on the same product, or you may submit one or more bids on different products, but you must include a surety for each product you bid on.

If I am placing multiple bids, must each bid be submitted separately?

Each bid must be on a separate bid sheet, but multiple bids may be contained within the same envelope.

If I enter multiple bids, do I have to submit a surety for each bid?

If you enter multiple bids on the same product, just one surety is required. If you submit bids for different products in a single auction, you must submit a surety for each product you bid on.

If I'm bidding on both products, can those bids be in the same sealed envelope or must they be separate?

Bids on different products may be in the same envelope, but they must be on the correct product bid sheet.

How will I know that my bid was received?

The PLCB will not confirm receipt of each bid. To ensure the bid is received, hand delivering the bid package or sending the bid package by certified or registered mail is recommended.

As a licensee, will my bid be discounted by 10 percent?

No, it will not. When filling out a bid sheet, a licensee must submit a "wholesale" price inclusive of any licensee discount. In other words, licensees should submit a bid amount reflective of what they're willing to pay, and a retail bid will be calculated from the licensee's bid for comparison against other bids.

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How will the 10 percent licensee discount be accounted for in the bid?

When evaluating a licensee bid against an individual consumer bid, the PLCB will divide the licensee's bid amount by 0.9 to arrive at a retail bid reflective of the licensee's 10 percent discount. The licensee's actual bid amount (what the licensee entered on the bid sheet) is the amount the licensee will be expected to pay, should the licensee's calculated retail bid be determined as the winning bid.

How will the winning bid be determined?

Once the bid minimum and reserve have been met, the highest eligible bid amount (subject to the licensee bid provision) will be selected to buy the product. The winning bidder will be notified by email and phone. If there is a tie for the top bid (more than one bidder submitted identical top bids), tied bidders will have an opportunity to submit best and final offers.

Can I withdraw my bid prior to bid selection?

Yes, you can withdraw your bid by emailing RA-LBProductAuction@pa.gov no later than 5 p.m. EDT on April 5, 2019.

How does the winning bidder get the product(s)?

Once the winning bidder is identified, they will be notified by email and phone. They will have 15 days to submit full payment of the winning bid (plus applicable sales tax), less the surety, to complete the purchase of the product. The payment must be through Automated Clearing House ("ACH") debit. During the notification process, the winning bidder will have the opportunity to select the FW&GS store where they will pick up the product(s). Once the payment has been processed, the product(s) will be hand delivered to the FW&GS store chosen. In order for FW&GS staff to release the product, the winning bidder must be present and show valid identification that corresponds to the customer name and contact information on the winning bid sheet. In addition, the winning bidder will also have to sign a receipt acknowledging the salable condition of the product and acceptance of the product.

What happens if the winning bidder does not want the product?

If the winning bidder declines to make the purchase, the second-highest eligible bidder will be given the opportunity to purchase the product at the second-highest bid amount, as long as the second-highest bid meets the minimum bid amount and the reserve set by the PLCB. In such case, the winning bidder will forfeit their surety.

How long will my surety be held?

If you're one of the three highest bidders, your surety will be held until the auction is complete, which could take up to two months after the bids are opened. If you are not one of the three highest bidders, your surety will be returned within a month of the bids being opened.

Will my surety be counted against the bid if I win?

Yes, the surety will be deducted from a top bidder's bid amount such that the top bidder will have to pay the remainder to purchase the product.

How will I know if nobody meets the minimum bid?

The PLCB will summarize product auction results on the auction webpage at the conclusion of each auction.

How will I know if there are changes to the auction?

All changes to the auction will be posted on the auction webpage.

If I have additional questions, who should I contact?

Questions regarding the product auction may be submitted to RA-LBProductAuction@pa.gov until March 8. Answers to questions received will be posted on the auction webpage by March 15, 2019.