

Agency Name	Liquor Commission
Audit Name	Liquor Commission 2019 Management Letter
Audit Period	FY 2019
Status Report Date	January 2021

Summary of Audit Observations/Findings					
Number	Observation Title	Status [place X in status column]			
		Unresolved	Partially Resolved	Substantially Resolved	Fully Resolved
1	Implement And Staff A Financial Accounting And Reporting Structure Appropriate For The Commission's Size And Complexity		X		
2	Implement Independent Timely Monitoring of Project Deliverables and Preventive Controls to Aid in Completion of New Information System		X		
3	Internal Audit Function Should Be Developed		X		
4	Controls Over Issuance of Promotional Cars Should Be Improved				X
5	Reconciliations Procedures Should Be Developed and Improved			X	
6	Complete Account Activity Should Be Maintained in the State's Accounting System				X
7	Capitalized Costs Should Be Properly Evaluated for Impairment Under GASB 42		X		
8	Non-GAAP Inventory Adjustment Should Be Discontinued				X
9	Centralize Cash Receipt Procedures		X		
10	Develop and Provide an Electronic Beer Tax Filing System		X		
11	Adopt Administrative Rules Required By Statute			X	
12	Impose Late or Nonpayment Requirements			X	

Observation 1: Implement And Staff A Financial Accounting And Reporting Structure Appropriate For The Commission's Size And Complexity

Summary of Finding: The Commission faces the following challenges: staffing of its financial reporting section and continued reliance on a single employee, the Chief Financial Officer; completing the task of establishing comprehensive and documented policies and procedure for all critical financial accounting and reporting; and standardizing a process for compiling financial statements for audit.

Current Status: The Commission has been actively recruiting for a financial comptroller as well as a comptroller of operations. These positions are intended to create greater separation of responsibilities, build redundancy in critical operations, and alleviate the reliance on a single individual.

The Commission continues its effort to document policies and procedures for the critical financial accounting and reporting activities and for compiling financial statements.

Observation 2: Implement Independent Timely Monitoring of Project Deliverables and Preventive Controls to Aid in Completion of New Information System

Summary of Finding: The Commission should implement independent, timely monitoring of project deliverables and preventative controls to help ensure the successful completion of the project. Important critical success factors may include a robust issue management process, clear succession planning to address the loss of experienced resources during the project, escalation and resolution mechanism, continuous risk assessment, and the hiring of business expertise in contract management.

Current Status: Both the eCommerce and ERP components of the NextGen project are well underway. The Commission's project management team actively monitors, tests and manages all aspects of the project on a daily basis, including scope, planning parameters, issues, risks, performance and quality. As stated in its response to the management letter, the Commission intends to continue to manage the project with its in-house team.

Observation 3: Internal Audit Function Should Be Developed

Summary of Finding: The internal audit function at the Commission has not been developed to effectively monitor controls, identify risks, or ensure that management's objectives are being carried out. The Commission's internal audit function does not appear to perform duties consistent with internal audit in the traditional sense, but rather performs tasks typically assigned to agency accounting staff. The Commission's internal auditors currently perform duties that are related to standard operating procedures or control activities, including the review and approval of refunds and investigating and reconciling daily purchase orders for discrepancies.

The Commission should develop its internal audit function and work towards the implementation of leading internal audit industry practices.

Current Status: The Commission is creating a formal Internal Audit Unit to ensure regular, ongoing and objective assessments of Commission-wide processes and programs. The Commission will hire staff necessary to build out a fully functioning unit, which will be administered by a Chief Internal Audit and Compliance Officer, or similar position, under the guidance and leadership of the Chief Operating Officer.

Observation 4: Controls Over Issuance of Promotional Cards Should Be Improved

Summary of Finding: The Commission has not reviewed or expanded its policies and procedures or implemented automated controls for issuing promotional cards. During promotional periods, retail customers are issued \$25 promotional cards for each \$150 spent on product purchases at a NHLC retail store.

The Commission should develop automated controls within its point of sale system to limit the number and amount of promotional cards issued to retail customers according to total dollars spent on product purchases. The Commission should establish policies and procedures over the issuance and safeguards of promotional cards.

Current Status: The Commission does not intend to run a promo card campaign in the remaining months of this fiscal year.

The NextGen point-of-sale will incorporate controls to mitigate the risk of error or fraud by displaying the amount of promotional dollars to be issued to the customer for the transaction. The actual details of how the control will work are currently in development.

In the event that a promo card campaign launches prior to implementing the NextGen ERP system, the Commission will evaluate how to add controls to address the risks identified.

Observation 5: Reconciliation Procedures Should Be Developed and Improved

Summary of Finding: The Commission should develop formal reconciliation policies and procedures across general ledger accounts for MLO licensing receipts, gift cards and promotional cards, and accounts payable between MAPPER and NHFirst.

Current Status: The Commission has documented and implemented a monthly process to reconcile liquor payables, gift cards and MLO to NH First.

Observation 6: Complete Account Activity Should Be Maintained in the State's Accounting System

Summary of Finding: The Commission does not fully account for all its financial accounting activities in the state accounting system, NHFirst, increasing the risk that certain financial activity may be inaccurate, inadvertently altered, lost, or excluded in the financial reporting process.

The Commission should coordinate with the Department of Administrative Services to obtain access to the Multi-Ledger module in NHFirst in order to properly record and account for all its financial activities. Journal entries should be detailed rather than summarized to provide transparency.

Current Status: For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the Commission utilized NHFirst Multi-Ledger for all year-end entries and has fully accounted for all its financial accounting activities in the state accounting system.

Observation 7: Capitalized Costs Should Be Properly Evaluated for Impairment Under GASB 42

Summary of Finding: The Commission has not thoroughly reviewed the NextGen software work in process capitalized costs for impairment. Once the Commission has obtained a vendor to continue with the development and implementation of the NextGen IT project, it should coordinate with the vendor to help determine what capitalized assets continue to have utility in accordance with guidelines provided in GASB 42. A formal evaluation should be completed to support the assessment of the capitalized assets, including support for the reduction in the carrying value of those assets determined to be impaired.

Current Status: Effective June 24, 2020, the Commission entered into a contract with a new vendor to complete development and deploy the new ERP system. The Commission is working with the vendor to determine the value of capitalized assets.

Observation 8: Non-GAAP Inventory Adjustment Should Be Discontinued

Summary of Finding: The Commission has not implemented policies and procedures to ensure that its liquor inventory is valued in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The Commission should implement policies and procedures to ensure inventory is valued in accordance with GAAP and only write down inventory in compliance with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 62.

Current Status: The Commission inventory is valued in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) in compliance with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 62.

Observation 9: Centralize Cash Receipt Procedures

Summary of Finding: The Commission could benefit from centralizing its cash receipt procedures at headquarters. The Commission's business office at headquarters collects payments from vendors for price reduction allowances and from licensees who purchase liquor products on credit. The Commission's Division of Enforcement and Licensing, also located at headquarters, collects beer, wine, and liquor tax receipts, in addition to license and permit fees, fines, and other miscellaneous revenues. From an internal control perspective, the collection and recording of cash receipts should be centralized to increase efficiencies and provide for the consistent application of controls around recording, posting and deposits.

Current Status: The Commission continues to review procedures at Headquarters for receiving cash, check or credit card payments from vendors and licensees to determine the most efficient means of receiving and processing such receipts.

Observation 10: Develop and Provide an Electronic Beer Tax Filing System

Summary of Finding: Payers of the State's beer tax file monthly paper-based tax returns, often with up to seven supporting schedules. The use of paper-based returns and supporting schedules appears inefficient for the taxpayer to prepare and file and inefficient for Commission staff to process, review, and audit. The paper-based returns do not allow the Commission to efficiently use computer assisted techniques to check for completeness, consistency, and accuracy of the returns and to efficiently use the submitted data for monitoring of tax compliance.

The Commission should continue in its efforts to develop and implement an electronic beer tax filing system as part of the NexGen IT project. At a minimum, the Commission should consider converting the current paper based forms to spreadsheets that can be electronically submitted to improve efficiency and facilitate the recalculation of the returns.

Current Status: The Business-to-Business functionality of eCommerce component of the NextGen project will include an electronic beer tax filing solution for New Hampshire wholesale distributors and manufacturers.

Observation 11: Adopt Administrative Rules Required By Statute

Summary of Finding: The Commission should adopt administrative rules required by RSA 178:28, I and V. If the Commission determines the required rules are not necessary for the operation of the Commission, the Commission should request an appropriate revision to the statute.

Current Status:

The administrative rules have been drafted and are being prepared for submission to the rulemaking process.

Observation 12: Impose Late or Nonpayment Requirements

Summary of Finding: The Liquor Commission has not complied with the requirements of Administrative Rule Liq 904 *Late/Non Payment* for vendors and licensees who fail to make timely payments of amounts due to the Commission. The Commission should impose the late and nonpayment requirements identified in Administrative Rule Liq 904. If the Commission determines that the requirements of Administrative Rule Liq 904 are not practical, then it should seek an appropriate revision to the Rule.

Current Status: The Commission has drafted a revision to Administrative Rule Liq 904, which is being prepared for submission to the rulemaking process.