



FSS Seirbhís Náisiúnta Sláinte  
Comhshaoil

Páirc Ghnó na Gaillimhe, An Daingean,  
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HSE National Environmental Health  
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11 June 2025

Deputy Barry Heneghan  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ Ref 26963/25 Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018**

Dear Deputy Heneghan

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question below:

To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide clarification on whether importers and distributors will receive a dispensation for alcohol stock held prior to the implementation of labelling requirements under the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018, similar to the dispensation afforded to on- and off-trade premises; if she accepts that the absence of such clarity could place a disproportionate logistical and financial burden on the sector; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Response: Section 12(13) of the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018 states 'this section shall not apply to an alcohol product offered for retail sale or supply before this section comes into operation'.

It is the view of the HSE National Environmental Health Service that alcohol products in the import or distribution chain are not considered as 'offered for retail sale or supply' to the final consumer. This stock must be labelled in accordance with the new requirements if offered for sale or supply on or after 22 May 2026.

I trust this answers your query.

Yours sincerely

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Dr. Maurice Mulcahy  
Regional Chief Environmental Health Officer  
HSE National Environmental Health Service