Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
95 Fourth Street, Suite 3
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150-2358

Jean M. Lorizio, Esq.
Chairman

DECISION

GRAPEVINE SELECTIONS LLC
565 TURNPIKE ST. SUITE 84
NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845
LICENSE#: WA-LIC-000536
VIOLATION DATES: JANUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH OCTOBER 8, 2024
HEARD: 10/28/2025

Grapevine Selections LLC ("Licensee" or "Grapevine") holds a Wholesaler License issued pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138, § 18. The Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission ("ABCC" or "Commission") held a hearing on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, regarding alleged violations of:

1) M.G.L. Ch. 138, §18 In order to ensure the necessary control of traffic in alcoholic beverages for the preservation of public peace and order, the shipment of such beverages into the commonwealth, except as provided in this section and §§ 19F and 19G, is hereby prohibited;

2) M.G.L. Ch. 138, §18 Importation of alcoholic beverages into the commonwealth from other than a holder of a certificate issued under § 18B.

The following documents are in evidence:

1. Investigative Report of M. Anderson;
2. Grapevine Selections, LLC's M.G.L. c. 138, § 18 Wholesaler License;
3. Copies of Grapevine's Cancelled Checks to Provence Wine Imports Inc;
4. Grapevine's Invoices to Retailers;
5. Provence Wine Imports, Inc.'s Bill of Lading, 5/6/2024;
6. Invoice from Domaine Travelle to Provence Wine Imports Inc.;
7. Grapevine's List of Purchases by Grapevine Selections from Provence Wine Imports, Inc.;
8. Licensee's Stipulation of Facts.

There is one (1) audio recording of this hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Grapevine Selections LLC ("Licensee" or "Grapevine") holds a wholesaler's license issued pursuant to Ch. 138, § 18, exercised at 565 Turnpike Street, Suite 84, North Andover, Massachusetts since 2023, with a warehouse formerly located at 144 Moore Road Weymouth, Massachusetts and now located at 31 Plymouth Street, Mansfield,

Massachusetts. Grapevine is wholly owned by Domenico Staniscia and Patrick Walsh who are both LLC managers. (Testimony, Exhibits 1, 2)

2. Provence Wine Imports, Inc. ("Provence") is wholly owned by Patrick Walsh. The Secretary of State, Corporations Division for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, indicates Provence has a principal place of business at 40 Court Street, Suite 3, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Patrick Walsh is President, Treasury, Secretary and Director. Provence held a wholesaler's license issued pursuant to Ch. 138, § 18 from 2017 through 2022. (Testimony, Exhibit 1)

3. Highland Distributing, Inc. ("Highland") is wholly owned by Domenico Staniscia who is identified as President, Treasurer, Secretary, CEO, and Director. Highland held a wholesaler's license issued pursuant to Ch. 138, § 18 from 2017 through 2022. Id.

4. Société d'Exploitation du Domaine Travelle ("Domaine Travelle") is a winery located in Puyloubier, France. Subsequent to the start of this investigation and communications among the parties, Domaine Travelle filed an application for a Ch. 138, § 18B license which the Commission approved on February 19, 2025. Prior to February 19, 2025, Domaine Travelle had not been licensed by the Commission. Id.

5. On Wednesday, August 14, 2024, the Boston Globe published an article that referenced Provence Wine Imports and indicated Provence had imported alcoholic beverages into Massachusetts from Domaine Travelle. Id.

6. On Thursday, October 3, 2024, Investigators Gardner, Terasconi, and Anderson ("Investigators") visited the warehouse of Grapevine where they observed pallets of Domain Travelle Côtes de Provence Rose and an order dated May 6, 2024, with a delivery address of Provence, 144 Moore Road, Weymouth. (Testimony, Exhibits 1, 5)

7. On Wednesday, October 9, 2024, Investigators requested documents relevant to transactions between Grapevine and Provence for any Domaine Travelle brands of alcoholic beverages purchased between January 1, 2024, and October 8, 2024. (Testimony, Exhibits 1, 3, 7)

8. Mr. Walsh provided Investigators with an invoice dated April 29, 2024, which indicated Provence purchased alcoholic beverages from Domaine Travelle. (Testimony, Exhibit 6)

9. Mr. Walsh provided a Bill of Lading dated May 6, 2024, which identified Domaine Travelle as the shipper of alcoholic beverages to Provence at 144 Moore Road, Weymouth, Massachusetts. This Bill of Lading was signed as received by Steve Pagington, an employee of the warehouse, on June 5, 2024. (Testimony, Exhibits 1, 5)

10. Mr. Walsh provided additional documentation, Purchases by Product/Service Detail, which indicated that Grapevine purchased Domaine Travelle products from Provence on at least 18 different occasions between January 1, 2024, through October 8, 2024. He provided the cancelled checks for the purchases which indicated Grapevine was the payor and Provence was the payee. (Testimony, Exhibits 1, 3, 7)

11. Grapevine's invoices dated 6/7/2024 through 9/19/2024 indicate the Licensee sold the Domaine Travelle alcoholic beverages to Massachusetts retailers. Id.

12. Provence Wine Imports, Inc. is not, and has not been, licensed by this Commission pursuant to Ch. 138, § 18B, nor was Provence licensed pursuant to Ch. 138, § 18 on the dates of January 1, 2024, through October 8, 2024. (Testimony, Exhibit 1)

13. On Monday, March 3, 2025, Investigator Anderson spoke with Mr. Walsh regarding the business model of Grapevine. Mr. Walsh confirmed that Provence purchased alcoholic beverages from Domaine Travelle and these alcoholic beverages were stored on the premises of Grapevine. Provence sold the alcoholic beverages to Grapevine and Grapevine then sold the alcoholic beverages to retailers in the Commonwealth. Id.

14. Investigator Anderson informed Mr. Walsh of the violation and that a report would be filed with the Chief Investigator for review. Id.

15. The Licensee has held a license under M.G.L. c. 138, § 18 since 2023 with no previous violations. (Commission Records)

16. Messrs. Walsh and Staniscia, Licensees, appeared at the Commission hearing. Id.

DISCUSSION

Licenses to sell alcoholic beverages are a special privilege subject to public regulation and control, Connolly v. Alcoholic Beverages Control Comm'n, 334 Mass. 613, 619 (1956), for which States have especially wide latitude pursuant to the Twenty-First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Opinion of the Justices, 368 Mass. 857, 861 (1975). The procedure for the issuance of licenses and required conduct of licensees who sell alcoholic beverages is set out in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 138.

Chapter 138 gives the Commission the authority to grant, revoke and suspend licenses. Chapter 138 was "enacted ... to serve the public need and ... to protect the common good." M.G.L. c. 138, § 23. "[T]he purpose of discipline is not retribution, but the protection of the public." Arthurs v. Bd. of Registration in Medicine, 383 Mass. 299, 317 (1981). The Commission is given "comprehensive powers of supervision over licensees." Connolly, 334 Mass. at 617.

The "[r]egulation of the liquor industry in Massachusetts is comprehensive and pervasive." Cellarmaster Wines of Mass., Inc. v. Alcoholic Beverages Control Comm'n, 27 Mass. App. Ct. 25, 27, 534 N.E.2d 21 (1989); see Miller Brewing Co. v. Alcoholic Beverages Control Comm'n, 56 Mass. App. Ct. 801, 808-809 (2002). "Massachusetts law requires that alcohol products sold in this State by manufacturers or suppliers be sold initially to licensed Massachusetts wholesalers. Those wholesalers in turn sell to retailers who sell to consumers. G.L. c. 138, §§ 12, 15, 18, 18B, 19." Heublein, Inc. v. Capital Distributing Co., 434 Mass. 698, 699 (2001); see Miller Brewing Co., 56 Mass. App. Ct. at 808-809.

Every violation the Commission finds must be based on substantial evidence. See Embers of Salisbury, Inc. v. Alcoholic Beverages Control Comm'n, 401 Mass. 526, 528 (1988). "Substantial evidence" is "such evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion." Id. Evidence from which a rational mind might draw the desired inference is not

enough. See Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mass. Inc., v. Comm'r of Ins., 420 Mass 707, 710 (1995). Disbelief of any particular evidence does not constitute substantial evidence to the contrary. New Boston Garden Corp. v. Bd. of Assessor of Boston, 383 Mass. 456, 467 (1981).

The Licensee is charged with a violation of:

1) M.G.L. c. 138, § 18 In order to ensure the necessary control of traffic in alcoholic beverages for the preservation of the public peace and order, the shipment of such beverages into the commonwealth, except as provided in this section and sections 19F and 19G is hereby prohibited;
2) M.G.L. c. 138, § 18 Importation of alcoholic beverages into the commonwealth from other than a holder of a certificate issued under section eighteen B.

Here, Grapevine Selections LLC purchased alcoholic beverages from Provence Wine Imports, Inc., an unlicensed entity. (Exhibits 3, 7) The alcoholic beverages had been imported into Massachusetts by Provence from Domaine Travelle, a French winery which was also unlicensed. (Exhibits 5, 6) Compounding matters is the fact that Provence is wholly owned by one of the two owners of Grapevine and therefore, Grapevine was aware it was purchasing alcoholic beverages from an unlicensed entity.

The Commission is persuaded that alcoholic beverages were unlawfully imported into Massachusetts which Grapevine then illegally purchased. However, the charges before the Commission relate to importation and the evidence presented shows Grapevine was not the entity responsible for said importation.

CONCLUSION

Based on the evidence, the Commission finds No Violation of:

1) M.G.L. Ch. 138, §18 In order to ensure the necessary control of traffic in alcoholic beverages for the preservation of public peace and order, the shipment of such beverages into the commonwealth, except as provided in this section and §§ 19F and 19G, is hereby prohibited;

2) M.G.L. Ch. 138, §18 Importation of alcoholic beverages into the commonwealth from other than a holder of a certificate issued under § 18B.

The Commission takes this opportunity to remind Grapevine of its obligation to comply with the laws of the Commonwealth, and that the sale of alcoholic beverages shall only take place as authorized by federal, state and local law.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION

Jean M. Lorizio, Chairman _____

Crystal Matthews, Commissioner _____

Deborah A. Baglio, Commissioner Deborah A Baglio

Dated: August 6, 2026

You have the right to appeal this decision to the Superior Courts under the provisions of Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws within thirty (30) days of receipt of this decision.

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2025-000099-ad-enf

cc: Local Licensing Board
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