

1872, ch. 264.

440. The gaugers shall procure and use a correct set of gauging instruments, and as soon as they have ascertained the capacity of any cask they shall distinctly mark with marking irons the capacity on the bilge near the bung, and prefix the letter M., for the State of Maryland, and the first letter of the surname of the gauger who does the gauging; and any cask containing such liquor, to be merchantable, must be round at the bilge and heads, the staves thereof to be seasoned white oak, free from any injurious portion of sap-wood, and not less than half an inch thick at the thinnest part, and not more than three-quarters of an inch at the thickest part, and to be tight and secured with a sufficient number of good hoops; if of iron, six; and if of wood, not less than twelve; and at least not less than twelve on all double barrels and hogsheads; and if any cask containing such liquor shall be found deficient in any of these respects by said gauger, he shall direct it to be coopered, or other casks substituted therefor, at the expense of the owner or seller; and if any such cask shall be fraudulently made, the owner or seller thereof, or his agent, shall forfeit the cask to the use of the State.

Ibid.

441. The said gaugers, in order to ascertain the capacity of casks, shall conform to the Baltimore standard of wine measure; and if any cask or vessel gauged or marked by said gauger shall in its capacity be found lacking or exceeding one or more gallons in any barrel, or two or more gallons in a cask of a larger size, the gauger shall forfeit and pay two dollars for each gallon so lacking or exceeding the number of gallons marked by him on the cask.

Ibid.

442. If any person shall alter any mark, or number marked or set down by any gauger, thereby to deceive and defraud the purchaser of distilled spirits, wine, molasses or other liquid merchandise so gauged and marked, or shall put any false mark or number on said cask, or upon any certificate intended to counterfeit the mark or number of the gauger, he shall forfeit and pay twenty dollars for every offence, one-half to the informer and the other half to the use of the State.