



Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management

State information: British Columbia

General Regulations

Legal age to Consume Alcohol: 19

Legal age to Serve Alcohol: Minors 19 years of age and up are permitted to serve alcohol as employees of restaurants but they are not permitted to open bottles or mix drinks. In licensed establishments, servers/employees must be 19.

Limit for Driving While Intoxicated: .08

Dram Shop Liability Laws: No

Maximum Alcohol per Drink:

- May not serve liquor to patrons in tray loads or pour directly from a bottle into a patron's mouth.
- Each drink containing distilled liquor (spirits) shall not contain more than three fluid ounces of distilled liquor - this applies regardless of whether the drink is served in one or more than one glass or container (for example, a single patron may not be served four one-ounce shooters or two two-ounce 'doubles' at one time).
- Draught beer may be served in single servings of no more than 0.5 litres or smaller servings of multiple brands, provided the total served at one time is no more than 0.5 litres.
- Pitchers or other multiple serving containers shared by two or more patrons may contain no more than 1.5 litres of draught beer.
- Wine may be served in single servings of no more than 0.25 litres or smaller servings of multiple brands, provided the total served at any one time does not exceed 0.25 litres.
- Wine may be served by the bottle to a party of two or more people, in containers of 0.75 litres to 1.5 litres.

Number of Drinks Served at One Time:

Not regulated

Server Training

As part of a business receiving a liquor license, the licensee, managers, and staff must complete the Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) program known as "Serving It Right". Server training must be completed within 120 days from the start date of employment. A small fee is charged to participants in the program.

Acceptable Forms of ID

Legally recognized picture ID, such as a Driver's License or passport.

Identification must be issued by a government agency.

ID must contain the holder's name, picture, signature, and birth date.

Recommended Age for Carding

25- All of British Columbia's licensed establishments are required by law to ask ANYONE who appear to be under the age of 25 for two pieces of identification. The first ID (a driver's license or passport, for example) must include name, photo, date of birth, and signature. The second ID (a Care Card or Social Insurance Card, for example) must include name, photo, or signature. If a restaurant has any doubts about a customer's ID, the customer will not be served liquor. If a bar, pub or nightclub has any doubts about a customer's ID, the customer will not be allowed in.

ID Confiscation



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Liquor License holders are encouraged (but not required) to retain identification that is clearly false and to turn it over to your liquor inspector. Where possible, the inspector will return the identification over to the agency that issued it (if the patron insists you return the ID, you should do so, but we encourage you to take a photocopy of it first to give to your liquor inspector).

Policies Regarding Minors

Minors are allowed in food-primary establishments (restaurants licensed to serve liquor) but may not be served any alcoholic beverages. Minors are generally not allowed in liquor-primary establishments (bars, pubs, nightclubs, etc), unless they are working as entertainers or the establishment's primary function is not to serve liquor (it is a licensed stadium, concert hall, train or airplane, for example).

Non-Alcoholic Beer and Wine

Not regulated. Non-alcohol beer or wine is defined as 1% alcohol or less. If beer and wine are sold, non-alcoholic beverages must also be sold.

Alcohol Liability

Licensees are responsible for operating within the terms of their license. Licensees may not breach laws regarding serving liquor to minors or intoxicated patrons. Laws regarding gambling, weapons, overcrowding, illicit liquor, disturbance of persons in the vicinity and other liquor-related regulations must be observed. Penalties are issued in terms of license suspensions and monetary fines. Breaches of liquor laws may result in a license suspension of up to a period of 60 days and monetary fines up to \$10,000. License suspensions may be longer at the recommendation of the general manager. The general manager may also recommend that a license be canceled.

State Contact Information

British Columbia Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Liquor Control and Licensing
P.O. Box 9282, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9J7
800-663-7867

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/public-safety-solicitor-general>

This information has been provided to us by the regulating agency and is believed to be correct. However, laws and regulations may change at any time, and the information provided should not be relied upon in place of official documents. For more information or clarification, consult the regulatory body for this jurisdiction directly.