

Checking ID

Information for Liquor Licensees

ID Requirements

You and your employees must ask anyone who appears to be under the age of 25 years for two pieces of identification.

The first piece of identification must:

- be issued by a government agency (Canadian or other) and
- include the person's name, signature, birth date and picture (such as a passport or driver's licence).

The second piece must:

- include an imprint of the person's name and
- include the person's signature and/or picture (such as a credit card or Care Card).

If the person cannot produce two pieces of acceptable identification that proves they are 19 or older, you must refuse entry or refuse to sell or serve them liquor.

Setting aside an area to check ID

For liquor-primary establishments, provide an area that is well lit and protected from entertainment noise so that staff can properly review both the offered identification and the patron, and ask appropriate questions to test the ID's authenticity.

Spotting fake ID

- 1) Check the photo – is this the person standing in front of you?
- 2) Hold the ID in your hands, rather than letting the person flash it at you. If the ID is in a plastic case, take it out.
- 3) Run your thumbnail over the date-of-birth line. If someone has taped a new birth date over the original, your nail may catch it.
- 4) Feel for any extra thickness around the photo and the edge of the lamination. This may mean someone has put a second photo on top of the original and re-laminated it.

- 5) Does the photo look faded, yellowish or "off"? If it does, this may be a laminated colour copy.
- 6) Check the lamination. With a fake ID, there may be wrinkles or air bubbles in the plastic and the edges may be peeling.
- 7) Turn the piece of ID in the light. Government issued ID usually have holograms or raised seals.
(Note: You can order a publication that has pictures of all North American and some international driver's licences and ID cards, from: www.driverslicenseguide.com)
- 8) Are the numbers the same thickness, weight and colour? If someone has tampered with the ID, the numbers may be thicker, heavier and darker.
- 9) To confirm that the ID is authentic, ask the person for:
 - a sample signature to compare to the signature on the photo identification
 - his or her zodiac sign – people with false identification often will be unable to answer quickly
 - his or her middle name and how to spell it, or
 - information that is on the identification, such as the person's address or postal code.

How to say "NO"

Be professional and courteous. Indicate to the person that it is against the law to sell, serve or supply liquor to a minor. If you do, you could jeopardize your licensing privileges, and you risk prosecution.

Refer customers to the ID signs issued by either the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch or the Liquor Distribution Branch. (If you'd like extra copies of either sign, please contact the appropriate branch.)



If you encounter fake ID:

You are encouraged (but not required) to retain identification that is clearly false and to turn it over to the issuing agency. (If the person insists you return the ID, you should do so but we encourage you to take a photocopy of it first.)

For further information, please contact:

Liquor Control and Licensing Branch

Phone: 250 387-1254 (Victoria)

1 866 209 2111 (toll free number)

Email: lclb.lclb@gov.bc.ca

Web: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/lclb



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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Liquor Control and Licensing Branch