



News Release

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Forty-one out of 53 Portland businesses pass OLCC minor sales check

Portland, OR – Forty-one out of 53 businesses in Southeast Portland passed a check for alcohol sales to minors on Nov. 15. The compliance check was performed by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and the Portland Police Bureau.

The 77 percent passing rate is consistent with the 2007 state average of 78 percent.

A new feature of this program involves a unique partnership between OLCC and the Oregon Beer and Wine Distributors Association. Research is very clear that decoy programs are effective in reducing underage sales, but they are more effective when there is recognition and reward for the licensee that does not sell to a minor. Until now, there were no funds for that aspect of the program.

Each premise that did not sell to a minor decoy on Saturday received a letter of congratulations from Steve Pharo, Executive Director of OLCC and an attractive decal. The decal says, "We passed! On Nov. 15, 2008, this establishment refused to sell alcohol to a minor during a Minor Decoy Operation. We don't sell to minors, so don't even try!!!" Licensees are encouraged to place the decals on their doors, windows, beer coolers or point-of-sale area where it is visible to the public. This extra visibility will increase the deterrent effect. The decals were developed and designed by OLCC and the Oregon Beer and Wine Distributors. The Distributors' Association paid for the decals.

"The licensees really seemed to like the new rewards program," said Carl Lewis, OLCC Regional Enforcement Manager. "Not only does it give them bragging rights, but it also serves as a deterrent for minors who try to buy alcohol there."

The commission performs the minor sales checks in an effort to reduce drinking by minors, which is a serious problem throughout the state. The OLCC tests about 1,300 licensed liquor businesses each year. Licensees or their employees can be held liable for alcohol-related damages and injuries if they serve or sell alcohol to a minor.

The following licensees were tested and passed the compliance check: **Boo Han Market**, 1313 SE 82nd Ave.; **Izzy's Pizza**, 3846 SE 82nd Ave.; **Nalay Sata Hun Portland**, 2850 SE 82nd Ave. #4; **Shamrock Bar & Grill**, 4919 SE 82nd Ave.; **Starky's**, 2913 SE Stark; **Pad Thai Kitchen**, 2309 SE Belmont; **Genoa**, 2832 SE Belmont; **Triple Nickel Pub**, 3646 SE Belmont; **Twilight Café & Bar**, 1420 SE Powell; **BC's Bar & Grill**, 2443 SE Powell; **Maddy's**, 3959 SE Powell; **La Bamba**, 4908 SE Powell Blvd.; **Portland Powell Liquor Store**, 5120 SE Powell Blvd; **82nd Street Bar & Grill**, 5028 SE 82nd Ave.; **Mama Maria's**, 5234 SE Powell; **Gator's Bar & Grill**, 6605 SE Powell; **OM Seafood (Tak Chong)**, 7632 SE Powell; **Foster Market**, 6231 SE Foster; **Round Table Pizza**, 6250 SE Foster; **Brown's Bar & Grill**, 6526 SE Foster, **Cosmos Bar & Grill**, 6219 SE Foster; **Sizzler #307**, 3737 SE 82nd Ave.; **Cava**, 5339 SE Foster; **Roscoe's**, 8150 SE Stark St.; **Su Casa Imports**, 16100 SE Stark; **7-Eleven #2353-23007E**, 16221 SE Stark; **Cabaret II**, 17544 SE Stark; **Stark Market**, 19720 SE Stark St.; **Nuestra Cocina**, 2135 SE Division; **Pok Pok**, 3226 SE Division; **Victory Wine & Food**, 3652 SE Division; **Scoreboard Sports Bar**, 4822 SE Division; **Plaid Pantry #29**, 5021 SE Division; **Pizzacato Division**, 6042 SE Division; **B C Food Store**, 12918 SE Foster; **Dusty's Bar & Grill**, 5902 SE Foster Rd. #100; **Safeway #4342**, 101 SE 82nd Ave. and **Star Deli & Boba Tea**, 7235 SE Foster.

The following licensees were tested and failed the compliance check: **Thai BBQ**, 4811 SE Powell Blvd.; **Romo's Latin Quarter**, 7915 SE Stark St.; **Why Not Wine?**, 7907 SE Stark St.; **Cooper's Coffee**, 6049 SE Stark St.; **Tom's Restaurant**, 3871 SE Division; **Golden Jade**, 3104 SE Belmont; **Clay's Smokehouse Grill**, 2932 SE Division; **Hung Far Low**, 2410 SE 82nd Ave.; **Space Age Fuel**, 16431 SE Foster; **Star Market**, 8826 SE Stark St.; **The Gold Bowl Restaurant**, 3582 SE Powell and **7-Eleven #2353-18410B**, 7501 SE 82nd Ave.

Servers, bartenders and licensees whose employees sell alcohol to the minor or do not verify the minor's age, are subject to OLCC administrative penalties including fines or suspensions. Store clerks who sell can be cited with criminal charges and a minimum \$350 fine.

Under Oregon law, businesses in cities with a population of 20,000 or more have an equal chance of being randomly selected for a minor decoy compliance check. A business can also be selected for a compliance check if there is a documented complaint of sales to minors. Businesses in cities with a population under 20,000 and unincorporated areas in counties are not subject to these selection requirements.

The OLCC offers a free training course on how to check ID's. Participants learn how to identify false identification and the laws regarding minors and alcohol. Additional training opportunities are available including classes for store clerks and service permit holders. Interested persons can call the local OLCC office to schedule a training session.

During the sales checks, a minor volunteer attempts to purchase alcohol from a licensed business to see if staff are checking ID's correctly and refusing to sell alcohol to anyone under 21. Commission inspectors or other law enforcement officers supervise the minor volunteers. The volunteers carry their own legal ID and do not disguise their age or lie to encourage the sale of alcohol.

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Promoting the public interest through responsible alcohol sales and service.