



News Release

Promoting
Responsible
Alcohol
Sales and
Service

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Seven out of 13 Southern Coast businesses pass OLCC sales check

Brookings, Ore. – Seven of 13 Southern Coast businesses passed an Oregon Liquor Control Commission minor sales check on May 8-9 by refusing to sell alcohol to a minor.

The 54 percent passing rate is significantly below the 2007 statewide average of 78 percent. The commission and local police perform the minor sales checks in an effort to reduce drinking by minors, which is a serious problem throughout the state.

"By performing the sales checks, we're reminding business owners and licensees how serious it is to sell alcohol to a minor," said Katie Hilton, OLCC Medford Regional Manager. "The people who sold will get a ticket now, but it would be much worse if they sold to a minor who was in an alcohol-related accident. The employees or licensees could be held liable for damages and injuries."

The following licensees passed the compliance check: **Harbor Shell Food Mart** at 16021 Hwy 101, Harbor; **Cielito Lindo Food & Mini Mart** at 500 Chetco Ave., Brookings; **Ray's Food Place #1** at 906 Chetco, Brookings; **D&J Texaco Shell** at 29619 Ellensburg Ave, Gold Beach; **Cougar Lane Lodge** at 04219 Agness Rd., Agness; **The Gray's Whale & OLCC #1057** at 29830 Ellensburg Ave., Gold Beach; and **The Sea Star** at 29745 Ellensburg Ave., Gold Beach.

The following licensees failed the compliance check: **Circle K Store** at 1023 Chetco Ave., Brookings; **Fred Meyer** at 325 5th St., Brookings; **Smuggler's Cove** at 16011 Boat Basin Rd., Harbor; **Central Curry 76** at 29359 Ellensburg Ave., Gold Beach; **Ray's Food Place #8** at 29560 Ellensburg Ave., Gold Beach; and **McKay's Market** at 29656 Ellensburg Ave., Gold Beach.

During the 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 encourage the sale of alcohol.

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 are not subject to these selection requirements.

The OLCC tests 1,300 – 1,600 licensed liquor businesses each year.

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.

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.