



News Release

9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd. - Portland, Oregon 97222-7355
www.oregon.gov/olcc

For more information:
Christie Scott, 503-872-5002
Pete O'Rourke, 541-686-7739

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Twelve out of 14 Lincoln City businesses pass OLCC minor sales check

Lincoln City, Ore. – Fourteen businesses in Lincoln City were checked for minor alcohol sales May 9 by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. Twelve licensees passed the check by refusing to sell alcohol to the minor volunteer.

The 86 percent passing rate is well above the 2007 state average of 78 percent.

"We're always pleased to see a high rate of compliance," said Pete O'Rourke, Eugene Regional Manager. "Recent studies show that teens who start drinking before they turn 21 have a higher rate of alcohol dependency as adults."

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: **Bi-Mart**, 4157 N. Hwy 101; **C&J Boutique**, 3229 SW Hwy 101; **Lincoln City Grocery Outlet**, 4157 N. Hwy 101; **McKay's Price N Pride**, 801 SW Hwy 101 #104; **Rite Aid #5371**, 4041 NW Logan Rd.; **Safeway Store #415**, 4101 Logan Rd.; **Shell 505**, 4031 NW Hwy 101; **Space Age Fuel**, 565 SW Hwy 101; **Taft Chevron**, 4648 Hwy 101; **US Food Mart**, 4700 SE Hwy 101; **US Market #155**, 3327 NW Hwy 101; and **US Smoke Shop**, 1800 SE Hwy 101 Suite B.

The following licensees did not pass the sales check: **Sea Rest Motel & MM Snack Shack**, 1249 NW 15th; and **Shell 504**, 1410 SE Hwy 101.

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

