



TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

Texans Helping Businesses & Protecting Communities

P.O. Box 13127
Austin, Texas 78711-3127
(512) 206-3333
www.tabc.texas.gov

Event Safety Guidance – Alcoholic Beverage Sales and Service

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) is a valuable partner in the planning of an event. TABC can provide expertise, speakers and training for staff involved in selling and monitoring consumption of alcoholic beverages at large events.

General

- Event management and concessionaires should know and understand laws and liability relating to alcohol service to underage patrons and intoxicated persons (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code, 2017).
- Event management should have policies and plans in place to prevent sales to minors or intoxicated persons (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2017).
- Policies and plans should give staff the authority to refuse a sale to a patron. Management should be notified of any refusals (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2017). Refusals should be reported to management and immediately communicated to other alcoholic beverage outlets at the event to prevent “sale shopping” by minors or intoxicated persons (Metropolitan Police Department, 2013).
- Policies and plans should designate how law enforcement or security staff will be notified of problems with patrons (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2017).
- Policies and plans should be reviewed with staff at the beginning of each shift (Alcohol Retailers Can Help Reduce Teen Drinking, 2013).
- Policies and plans should require staff selling or serving alcoholic beverages and their managers to be seller/server certified through a Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission approved program (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2017). Alcoholic beverage permittees can benefit from this by having trained staff and may qualify for Safe Harbor protections if a violation occurs. Seller/server training can be obtained through online program providers or locally. Providers can be found at www.tabc.texas.gov/services/abc-certification/abc-certification-schools/.
- Each outlet selling alcoholic beverages should have enough employees on duty to monitor sales and patrons (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code, 2021).
- Staff should not be allowed to consume alcoholic beverages while on duty (Event Safety Alliance, 2013).

- Event management or concessionaires should not engage in any practice that encourages sellers or servers of alcoholic beverages to sell to minors or intoxicated persons (Texas Administrative Code, 2021).
- Re-entry of attendees to an event should be restricted to prevent attendees from consuming alcoholic beverages or drugs at their vehicles (Event Safety Alliance, 2013).
- Ultimately, the entity securing the permit or license for the event and the individual seller/server of the alcoholic beverage are responsible for preventing sales to underage or intoxicated persons (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2017).

Preventing Sales to Underage Patrons

- Event management and concessionaires should implement methods for safeguarding legal sales of alcoholic beverages to over-21 event attendees (Event Safety Alliance, 2013).
- Staff should be trained and encouraged to carefully check identifications and identify legally acceptable forms of identification. Acceptable identification is an apparently valid proof of identification that contains a physical description and photograph consistent with the patron's appearance, purports to establish that the person is 21 years of age or older and was issued by a governmental agency. Proof of identification may include a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety, a passport, or a military identification card (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code, 2021).
- Utilizing wristbands and/or markings are recommended to visually identify over-21 event attendees who wish to purchase alcoholic beverages (Event Safety Alliance, 2013). For multi-day events, wristbands and/or markings should be changed each day (Idaho Office of Drug Policy, 2017). Staff should be warned these methods can be defeated by minors and, if a patron's age is in doubt, they should verify the patron's age (Alcohol Retailers Can Help Reduce Teen Drinking, 2013).
- Event management may utilize booths for checking identifications for event attendees to receive wristbands and/or markings. Alternately, staff may conduct identification checks and issue wristbands and/or markings as attendees enter the event (Event Safety Alliance, 2013). Staff should be trained and/or given resources to identify false or fictitious identifications (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2017).
- Beverage outlets should consider utilizing transparent or translucent cups to visually discern alcoholic beverages from non-alcoholic beverages (Event Safety Alliance, 2013).
- A seller/server should be encouraged to verify the age of any patron they believe to be under 21, or close to 21, even if wristbands and/or markings are used. If a

seller/server thinks an identification is false, or does not belong to the person, they should ask for a second form of identification. They can then ask additional questions about information on the card, such as date of birth, ZIP code, middle initial, etc. (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2017).

- Event management or concessionaires should set a perceived age that will trigger an identification check of a patron (Alcohol Retailers Can Help Reduce Teen Drinking, 2013).

Preventing Sales to Intoxicated Patrons

- Event management should implement methods for recognizing signs of intoxication and preventing sales of alcoholic beverages to intoxicated attendees (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2017).
- Staff should be trained and encouraged to recognize the signs of over-consumption or to recognize attendees who are consuming alcoholic beverages rapidly (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2017). Over-service of alcoholic beverages and impairment can result in a higher risk of aggressive behavior among patrons (Scott & Dedel, 2006).
- Event management should limit the number of alcoholic drinks sold per person, per purchase (Texas Administrative Code, 2015).
- Management should support the seller's or server's decisions to stop or refuse service to an intoxicated patron (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2017).
- Event management should implement safe ride programs for event attendees who are impaired. Intoxicated persons at the event may be ejected, arrested, or offered a safe ride (Model Alcohol Management Policies, n.d.). Plans for handling intoxicated persons should be discussed with event law enforcement (Event Safety Alliance, 2013).
- Event staff should monitor event attendees to prevent victimization of impaired patrons. Impaired patrons are vulnerable to victimization due to alcohol consumption causing loss of judgment and failure to perceive danger (New York City Police Department & New York City Hospitality Alliance, 2018).

Breach Prevention and Reporting Requirements

- TABC license and permit holders are required to report certain crimes and disturbances to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission that happen on the premises where they conduct their business (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2021).
- Events should have a comprehensive strategy to reduce the risk of assaultive behaviors that include requiring sellers and servers to attend responsible beverage service training, monitoring drinking to prevent intoxication, promoting slower consumption rates, preventing consumption by minors, establishing clear

codes of conduct for attendees, and working with local law enforcement and regulatory authorities (Scott & Dedel, 2006).

- Event management should be aware that events featuring aggressive entertainment are at a higher risk for violence (Scott & Dedel, 2006).
- Event management should monitor for overly aggressive security staff and encourage de-escalation skills for security staff. Event management should be aware that some security staff see themselves as enforcers rather than protectors of event safety (Scott & Dedel, 2006).

Reporting Human Trafficking

- Event management should train personnel to recognize the signs of human trafficking. TABC offers education for businesses to help create a critical force multiplier in the fight against human trafficking (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2021).
- If a situation is an emergency or event staff believe someone is in immediate danger, they should first call 911 and alert the police that they think it might be human trafficking (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2021).
 - Suspicious activity can be reported to iWatch at iWatchTX.org or 24/7 by phone 844-643-2251.
 - Trafficking can also be reported 24/7 to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center by phone at 888-373-7888 or by text message to 233733.

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