

DC Laws & Regulations Summary

Age to Consume	21 <i>(last checked 2/20/2008 9:41:32 AM, last changed 1/13/2005 10:58:43 AM)</i>
Age to Pour	21 <i>(last checked 2/20/2008 9:41:36 AM, last changed 1/13/2005 10:59:53 AM)</i>
Age to Sell	18 <i>(last checked 2/20/2008 9:41:41 AM, last changed 1/13/2005 11:00:12 AM)</i>
Age to Serve	18 <i>(last checked 2/20/2008 9:41:52 AM, last changed 1/13/2005 11:00:25 AM)</i>
Notes on Selling and/or Serving	The "Juvenile Curfew Act" prohibits persons under the age of 17 from being on the premises of an alcoholic beverage establishment between 11:00pm and 6:00am Monday through Thursday, and 12:00midnight and 6:30am Friday through Sunday. <i>(last checked 2/20/2008 9:41:47 AM, last changed 9/26/2007 3:30:26 PM)</i>
DUI and DWI Limit	.08. However, the laws of the District of Columbia allow the police to arrest anyone with a BAC of .01 or higher, regardless of age. <i>(last checked and changed on 6/23/2010 1:42:50 PM)</i>
DUI and DWI Limit Under 21	.00 <i>(last checked and changed on 2/12/2010 4:31:34 PM)</i>
Maximum Alcohol per Drink	Not Regulated <i>(last checked 2/20/2008 9:42:10 AM, last changed 1/13/2005 11:01:26 AM)</i>
Number of Drinks at One Time	One. Per DC regulations, back-up drinks include second drinks served as part of a "two-for-one" promotion, second drinks served just prior to last call and second drinks provided complimentary by the licensee or purchased by other patrons. Except as provided above, back-up drinks do not include two different drinks served together such as a beer and a shot or any other industry drink that can be considered a shot and a mixer. The prohibition against back-up drinks also does not apply to the service of wine with a meal where the patron has not finished a previously served cocktail.

DC Alcohol Laws & Regulations Summary

(last checked 2/20/2008 9:42:16 AM, last changed 1/13/2005 11:55:37 AM)

Dram Shop Liability Laws	The District of Columbia is not a Dram Shop jurisdiction. <i>(last checked and changed on 8/26/2008 10:30:30 AM)</i>
Social Host Liability Laws	No <i>(last checked 2/20/2008 9:42:27 AM, last changed 1/13/2005 11:04:00 AM)</i>
Notes on Liability Laws	Information is not available at this time. <i>(last checked 2/20/2008 9:42:58 AM, last changed 2/9/2007 4:26:11 PM)</i>
Server Training Regulated	Yes, for managers only. See Notes on Server/Seller Training Regulations. <i>(last checked and changed on 3/5/2009 2:46:30 PM)</i>
Notes on Server/Seller Training Regulations	The District of Columbia has a mandatory training program for managers of on-premise establishments. TIPS is an approved provider for this training. eTIPS is currently not approved for this training. <i>(last checked and changed on 3/5/2009 2:47:01 PM)</i>
Seller Training Regulated	Yes. <i>(last checked 2/20/2008 9:42:43 AM, last changed 12/19/2006 2:20:59 PM)</i>
Corkage/Merlot Laws	A recently enacted ordinance allows restaurant licensees to permit patrons to remove one partially consumed bottle of wine for consumption off the premise, provided that (1) the bottle must be securely resealed by an employee of the restaurant; (2) the bottle is placed in a bag or container that is tamper-proof, and (3) a dated receipt for the bottle of wine is attached to the container. This ordinance applies only to Class R licensees (restaurants). <i>(last checked and changed on 9/8/2008 4:04:33 PM)</i>
On Premise	On-Premise Establishments: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am - 2:00 am, excluding federal and DC holidays; Friday & Saturday, 8:00 am - 3:00 am; Sunday, 10:00 am - 2:00 am Monday. <i>(last checked and changed on 12/16/2009 10:09:00 AM)</i>

Off Premise

Retail Stores:

Class A Licenses: Monday through Saturday: 9:00 am -10:00 pm.
December 24 and 31: 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Class B Licenses:

Monday through Saturday: 9:00 am - 12:00 midnight.
Sunday: 9:00am - 12:00 midnight December 24 and 31: 10:00 - 12:00
midnight.

(last checked and changed on 12/16/2009 10:08:37 AM)

Acceptable Forms of ID

A recently enacted ordinance defines a "valid identification document" as an official identification issued by an agency of government (local, state, federal, or foreign) containing, at a minimum, the name, date of birth, signature, and photograph of the bearer. The ordinance allows establishments to accept "singular" foreign licenses (ie. Mexico, Canada, England, France) but not the European Union. College ID's should NOT be accepted.

Recommended age for carding

35 - Not mandatory.
(last checked 2/20/2008 9:43:32 AM, last changed 6/30/2004 11:08:21 AM)

ID Confiscation Allowed

Yes
(last checked 2/20/2008 9:43:35 AM, last changed 1/13/2005 11:06:38 AM)

Notes on ID Confiscation

Information is not available at this time.
(last checked 2/20/2008 9:43:40 AM, last changed 9/28/2005 11:00:56 AM)

Policies Regarding Underage Persons

It is unlawful to serve or sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. Minors are permitted in any establishment provided no alcohol is consumed. The "Juvenile Curfew Act" prohibits persons under the age of 17 from being on the premises of an alcoholic beverage establishment between 11:00pm and 6:00am Monday through Thursday, and 12:00midnight and 6:30am Friday through Sunday.
(last checked and changed on 7/26/2010 12:19:05 PM)

Non-alcoholic beer and wine

None
(last checked 2/20/2008 9:43:52 AM, last changed 2/11/2004 2:44:14 PM)

Liquor Liability

The following is a list of possible penalties for violating the ABC

regulations by selling to a minor: First Offense - \$1,500 fine and 5-day suspension (All days stayed with training) Second Offense - \$3,000 fine and 10-day suspension (6 days stayed with training, 4 served with training) Third Offense - \$4,500 fine and 15 days suspension (9 days served, 6 days stayed with training) Fourth Offense - Recommended to Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia for revocation of license
(last checked 2/20/2008 9:43:59 AM, last changed 8/26/2004 3:32:28 PM)

Statute of Limitations Information is not available at this time.
(last checked 2/20/2008 9:44:03 AM, last changed 2/12/2007 1:44:19 PM)

Happy Hour Laws Licensees may not offer two-for-one drink specials. See exception in 23 DCMR 199.1.
(last checked 2/20/2008 9:44:09 AM, last changed 1/9/2006 12:59:38 PM)

Contact Alcoholic Beverage Control Board in D.C.
(last checked 2/20/2008 9:45:13 AM, last changed 2/11/2004 2:44:14 PM)

Phone 202-442-4423
(last checked 2/20/2008 9:45:16 AM, last changed 2/11/2004 2:44:14 PM)

Email address abra@dc.gov
(last checked 2/20/2008 9:45:20 AM, last changed 10/13/2004 4:41:22 PM)

Web URL Address abra.dc.gov
(last checked 2/20/2008 9:45:23 AM, last changed 10/13/2004 4:35:08 PM)

If you have questions or comments regarding Contact Information, please contact our [Government Relations](#) department.

[See all documents related to this jurisdiction.](#)

This information has been provided to us by the regulating agency and is believed to be correct. However, laws and regulations may change at any time, and the information provided should not be relied upon in place of official documents. For more information or clarification, consult the regulatory body for this jurisdiction directly

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