
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

LIQUOR COMPLIANCE SUMMARY RELEASED

VICTORIA – The results of 1,576 compliance-related inspections of liquor establishments in British Columbia were released today by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch.

The report summarizes compliance and enforcement actions between Oct. 1, 2007 and Dec. 30, 2007, resulting in:

- 140 alleged contraventions, which mean that the inspector has issued a contravention notice to the licensee. Depending on the severity, the Branch will recommend a penalty and the licensee will be given the opportunity to contest.
- 31 establishments receiving penalties, which range from a 20-day licence suspension to a \$7,500 fine.
- \$39,000 in fines and 187 days in licence suspensions.

Compared with the previous quarter, the number of establishments receiving penalties, the value of fines and the number of suspension days remained relatively stable.

In 2007, a total of 121 establishments received penalties of \$184,000 in fines and 621 days in licence suspensions.

The Provincewide Compliance and Enforcement Summary for this quarter, including the listing of all penalties imposed, is available at:

www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/lclb/publications/docs/2007-oct-01-dec-31-compliancereport.pdf

A team of approximately 50 compliance and enforcement staff monitor liquor service in 8,800 licensed premises in B.C. The underlying principle is to encourage voluntary compliance. In many cases, proactive compliance meetings with operators prevent public safety issues and related sanctions. Still, public safety contraventions like overcrowding, service to minors and intoxication continue to necessitate enforcement action.

Staff have also been timing and targeting enforcement to when and where the risk to public safety is greatest – for example, conducting more inspections during busier times of the week, and focusing on establishments that may present the greatest risk to public safety. The division's risk-based approach also targets inspections based on an establishment's compliance history.

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