



Prescribed Identification (ID) Background Information

Below you will find more information about the proposed amendment to reduce the required number of prescribed ID from two to one

Issue

In 2002, B.C. increased the requirement from one to two pieces of prescribed ID to purchase alcohol. This was done to mitigate problems related to an increased use of counterfeit IDs by minors.

Prescribed ID includes a passport, driver's licence, or government-issued photo ID (primary ID), which includes status cards. A secondary ID is one that displays the individual's name and either their signature or picture.

The Province is proposing a change to require one piece, rather than two, of prescribed ID to purchase liquor or cannabis. This is consistent with the requirement in all other provinces and territories.

Current strategies to protect minors

There are a number of strategies now in place to protect minors and deter liquor and cannabis licensees from selling to anyone they suspect to be under-age. These include:

- 1) enhanced security features for government-issued IDs, making them difficult to counterfeit or alter;
- 2) the Minors as Agents Program, which targets licensee compliance with ID regulations, enabling inspectors to take enforcement action where required; and
- 3) enhanced training materials for the safe serving training programs required of licensees and their staff, which explains the legal responsibilities associated with selling or serving liquor and cannabis and how to prevent sales to minors.

What is changing?

If the proposed changes are approved by Cabinet, the Liquor Control Licensing Regulation and the Cannabis Licensing Regulation will be amended to require one piece of primary ID for liquor or cannabis purchases.



Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch

Regardless of the number of pieces of ID prescribed, licensees and their employees are still required to take steps to confirm an individual's age if they have any doubt that an individual is 19 or over. This may include requesting a second piece of ID. Licensees can also implement more restrictive ID policies, such as checking every patron's ID.

What this means

Anyone in B.C. will only be required to show one piece of I.D. for liquor or cannabis purchases unless the licensee determines a need for a second piece of ID.

This will also support individuals who have their ID stolen or lost with reduced requirements to replace their ID.

For questions related to the policy, contact LCRBLiquorPolicy@gov.bc.ca.