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Advice to Restaurateurs on the Sale of Alcohol

When selling alcohol the law states: -

You should not sell alcohol of any kind to anyone under the age of 18 years.

There is, however, one exemption to this rule. Beer, wine or cider (but not Alco pops and spirits) may be served to someone over the age of 16 if,

A person accompanies them who is over 18 years and they are having a table meal at the time of service.

The penalties for serving an underage person are: -

An £80 fixed penalty ticket may be issued to anyone who supplies alcohol to someone under 18, or

Sellers, Licensees or the DPS may be prosecuted; the maximum fine is £5,000.

You should also be aware that if you employ people to work in your restaurant who are under the age of 18, they shouldn't supply alcohol unless the sale has been approved by an employee who is 18 or over.

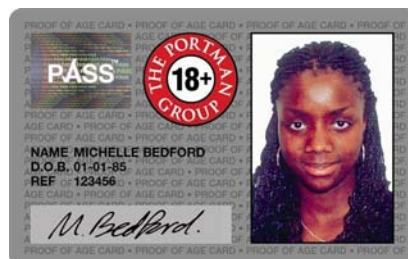
Remember that it is not just the bar staff who are liable: -

If you have table waiter service, the waiter has a responsibility to ascertain the customers age if they appear to be younger than 18 years.

If in doubt about someone's age, ask for proof: -

A proof of age card needs to carry a PASS hologram to show that they are part of an approved scheme. An acceptable proof of age includes:

- A passport
- Photo driving licence
- Portman Group Card
- Citizen card
- Connexions card
- Validate card



IF IN DOUBT REFUSE THE SALE

If you have any further questions or need to seek further guidance, please contact your local Trading Standards Office on 01724 297664

This leaflet is not an authoritative interpretation of the law and is intended only for guidance.