

Merchants need to know

By Charlie DeTar

Everything You Need to Know About Selling Alcohol

- **You must be 21 years old to purchase alcohol products in New Hampshire.** It is illegal to sell alcohol products to individuals under the age of 21 years of age. Any person making the sale of alcohol to any person whose age is in question shall require the purchaser to furnish valid documentation that such person is 21 years of age or over.
- Employees must verify the age of customers before selling alcohol to them. Written or oral permission from another adult is not acceptable. The customer must present a valid form of identification.
- The NH Division of Enforcement & Licensing ensures compliance with unannounced inspections

If you are unsure of a person's age, ask for and check a valid form of identification.

What are valid forms of identification?

- **Motor vehicle driver's license:** Driver's license issued by the state of NH, another state, the District of Columbia, a US Territory or a province of Canada are acceptable.
- **Armed services or military ID**
- **Identification Card:** ID issued by the director of motor vehicles or any photo identification card issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or a US Territory.
- **Valid passport:** A valid passport from a country with whom the US maintains diplomatic relations.

Know the consequences before you sell alcohol.

Both the employee selling the alcohol & the business are responsible for the illegal sale of alcohol.

Legal consequences for Employee or Seller: It shall be a violation to sell any liquor or beverage to a minor during enforcement activity initiated solely for the purpose of verifying noncompliance with RSA 179:5. All other instances shall be charged as a Class B Misdemeanor.

Penalties: Violation: Fines up to \$1,000.00
Class B Misdemeanor: Fines up to \$1,200.00

Legal consequences for Business or Merchant: Administrative penalties shall be imposed by the Liquor Commission. Businesses can be charged with a Class B Felony for any violations of RSA 179:5 (Prohibited Sales)

Additional penalties under Federal law may apply.