



INDUSTRY NOTICE

“Party Buses” and the Consumption of Alcohol

Posted February 17, 2014

Bus companies that operate “party bus” excursions must familiarize themselves with the specifics of the law under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*.

The consumption of liquor is a concern in relation to these vehicles. It is clear under the law that liquor cannot form part of the transportation service.

Offences include:

- consuming alcohol in a public place, including commercial vehicles;
- operating a motor vehicle while there is liquor in the motor vehicle; and
- permitting a minor to consume liquor in a place under his/her control.

All licensees must retain the care and control of every commercial passenger vehicle that is operated under the licence.

Licensees that accept calls for “party bus” excursions must educate their drivers and operators of their responsibilities on how to handle and react to the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

The liquor law protects commercial passenger companies from liability. There could be serious criminal and civil repercussions if the liquor law is not properly followed.

A peace officer who believes that liquor is unlawfully possessed may search for and seize any liquor found. Offences under the Act include a fine of not more than \$10,000, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. Minors with liquor in their possession can be issued a \$230 fine.

If the Registrar of Passenger Transportation becomes aware of such illegal activities he/she may refuse to issue a licence or cancel an existing licence if the applicant or licensee is not considered to be a fit and proper person to provide the service.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this notification please contact the Passenger Transportation Branch Duty Inspector at:

Telephone: (604) 527-2198

Email: passengertransportationbr@gov.bc.ca

Yours truly,



Dawn Major
Registrar and Director
Passenger Transportation Branch