



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

300A Outlet Pointe Blvd., Columbia, South Carolina 29210  
P.O. Box 125, Columbia, South Carolina 29214-0575

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SC INFORMATION LETTER #23-13

**SUBJECT:** Recognized Training Programs  
(Alcoholic Beverage Licensing)

**DATE:** September 12, 2023

**SUPERSEDES:** SC Information Letter #14-6 and all previous documents and any oral directives in conflict herewith.

**AUTHORITY:** S. C. Code Ann. Section 12-4-320 (2014)  
S.C. Code Ann. Section 1-23-10(4) (2005)  
SC Revenue Procedure #09-3

**SCOPE:** An Information Letter is a written statement issued to the public to announce general information useful in complying with the laws administered by the Department. An Information Letter has no precedential value.

**Introduction:**

The Department of Revenue's Alcohol Beverage Licensing section is authorized to consider mitigating circumstances when evaluating the appropriate penalty for a violation of the state's statutes and regulations governing the sale, distribution, or possession of beer, wine, and/or alcoholic liquor. Mitigating circumstances are circumstances that may warrant a less severe sanction than would otherwise be appropriate. If recognized mitigating circumstances are present, the Department will consider whether to reduce monetary penalties, the lengths of suspensions, and whether revocations should be reduced to suspensions with monetary penalties.

When the violation involves the sale of beer, wine, or alcoholic liquor to an underage person the Department will consider whether the employee committing the violation has completed a training program recognized by the Department within a reasonable period of time (but no longer than one year) prior to the violation. The Department must receive verification that the employee attended and completed the training and an outline of the training conducted, which must include training covering the prevention of underage sales.

## **Recognized Training Programs:**

As of the date of this information letter, the Department recognizes the following programs for purposes of mitigating circumstances when the employee committing the violation has completed a recognized training program:

1. Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) – a training program of Health Communications, Inc. To register for or inquire about this program, visit the organization’s website at [www.gettips.com](http://www.gettips.com). If you need assistance in registering for this program, contact the organization at 1-800-438-8477.
2. ServSafe Alcohol – a training program provided by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation designed for the on-premises operator. To register for or inquire about this program, visit the organization’s website at [www.servsafecertified.com/find-a-class](http://www.servsafecertified.com/find-a-class) to find a class near you. If you need assistance in registering for this program, contact the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association at 1-800-803-4272 or 803-765-9000.
3. Alcohol Risk Reduction Training (ARRT) – a training program provided by Show Pros Entertainment Services, Inc. To register for or inquire about this program, visit the organization’s website at [www.showprostaff.com](http://www.showprostaff.com), or contact Danny Sellers at 704-525-3784 or at [Danny.Sellers@showprostaff.com](mailto:Danny.Sellers@showprostaff.com).
4. Palmetto Retailers Education Program (PREP) – a training program provided by the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS). To register for or inquire about this program, visit the organization’s website at [www.daodas.sc.gov/services/prevention/merchant-initiatives](http://www.daodas.sc.gov/services/prevention/merchant-initiatives). If you need assistance in registering for this program, contact Michelle Nienhius, DAODAS, P.O. Box 8268, Columbia, SC 29202 or [mnienhius@daodas.sc.gov](mailto:mnienhius@daodas.sc.gov) or at 803-896-1184.
5. Learn2Serve – a training program provided by 360 Training. To register for or inquire about this program, visit the organization’s website at [www.360training.com/learn2serve/alcohol-training](http://www.360training.com/learn2serve/alcohol-training). If you need assistance in registering for this program, contact the organization at 1-877-881-2235 (option 1).
6. South Carolina Alcohol Seller-Server Training – a training program provided by Serving Alcohol, Inc. To register for or inquire about this program, visit the organization’s website at <https://servingalcohol.com/south-carolina-alcohol-server-training>. If you need assistance in registering for this program, contact the organization using their Technical Support webpage at <https://servingalcohol.com/contact-support> or at 561-404-5363.

7. ABC Server Training – a training program provided by ABC Service Training, LLC. To register for or inquire about this program, visit the organization’s website at [www.abcservertraining.com/south-carolina-server-training-course](http://www.abcservertraining.com/south-carolina-server-training-course). If you need assistance in registering for this program, contact the organization at 1-800-722-9451.

Completion of one of the Recognized Training Programs is not a guarantee of a reduction in the penalty imposed by the Department. The determination as to whether mitigating circumstances warrant a reduction in penalties is within the sole discretion of the Department.

### **Other Training Programs:**

Trade associations and other organizations seeking to have a training program recognized by the Department must do the following:

1. Trade associations and other organizations must have their training program reviewed and approved by the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (SCDAODAS) to be recognized by the Department. SCDAODAS will need access to all materials to include, but not limited to, court curriculum, trainer’s notes/instructions, presentations, and participant guides.

Submit your training program to:  
Michelle Nienhius, SCDAODAS  
[mnienhius@daodas.sc.gov](mailto:mnienhius@daodas.sc.gov)  
803-896-1184

2. After approval from SCDAODAS, submit proof of SCDAODAS approval along with the program contact information to the Department’s Alcohol Beverage Licensing section via email to: [ABL@dor.sc.gov](mailto:ABL@dor.sc.gov).

For the most up-to-date information on training programs recognized by the Department for purposes of mitigating circumstances, please visit the Department’s Alcohol Beverage Licensing website at <https://dor.sc.gov/tax-index/abl/Pages/Recognized-Training-Programs.aspx>.