

SC INFORMATION LETTER 10-10

SUBJECT: Recognized Training Programs
(Alcoholic Beverage Licensing)

DATE: September 20, 2010

SUPERSEDES: SC Information Letter #08-21 and all previous documents and any oral directives in conflict herewith.

AUTHORITY: S. C. Code Ann. Section 12-4-320 (2000)
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:

SC Revenue Procedure #04-4 is an advisory opinion providing guidelines to be used by Department employees in assessing penalties for violations of the statutes and regulations governing the sale, distribution, or possession of beer, wine, and distilled spirits. Its purpose is to promote uniform penalty application.

The Department will consider certain mitigating circumstances when assessing penalties. Mitigating circumstances are circumstances that may warrant a less severe sanction than would otherwise be called for. Under the guidelines, generally if recognized mitigating circumstances are present, monetary penalties will be reduced, suspensions will be reduced in duration, and revocations will be reduced to suspensions with monetary penalties.

Among the mitigating circumstances recognized in the guidelines is the timely completion by the employee committing the violation of a recognized training program.

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 contact this organization about training, call 1-800-438-8477.
2. ServSafe Alcohol, Serving Alcohol Responsibly - a training program of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation that is designed for the on-premise operator. To obtain training through this program, contact the Hospitality Association of South Carolina at 1-800-803-4272 or (803) 765-9000, or via the Internet at www.schospitality.org.
3. Alcohol Risk Reduction Training ("ARRT") - a training program of Show Pros Entertainment Services Inc. To inquire about training, contact Danny Sellers at 704-525-3784 or at Danny.Sellers@showprostaff.com. Visit the website at www.showprostaff.com.
4. Palmetto Retailers Education Program (“PREP”) – a training program of Circle Park Behavioral Health Services, the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (LRADAC), and the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS).

To contact Circle Park Behavioral Health Services about training, write to Dawn Hancock, Coordinator/Community-Based Coalition, 601 Gregg Avenue, Post Office Box 6196, Florence, SC 29502-6196 or at dhancock@circlepark.com or call her at (843) 664-3963.

To contact LRADAC about training, write to Kevin Grindstaff, LRADAC, P.O. Box 50597, Columbia, SC 29250 or at kgrindstaff@lradac.org or call him at (803) 733-1390 ext. 204.

To contact DAODAS about training, write to Michelle Nienhius, DAODAS, 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 215, Columbia, SC 29210 or at mnienhius@daodas.state.sc.us or call her at (803) 896-1184.

Please note that the training must have taken place within a reasonable period of time before the offense in question and must include training covering the violation at issue. Also, the person claiming training as a mitigating circumstance must provide the Department an outline of the training conducted and verification that the employee attended the training. 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 should send the request along with a detailed description of the training program to:

SC Department of Revenue
Regulatory Division Administrator
P.O. Box 125
Columbia, SC 29214-0907