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August 2017

Minimum Wage for Liquor Servers

All employees in British Columbia are entitled to be paid minimum wage. The minimum wage for liquor servers is as follows:

- September 15, 2016: \$9.60
- September 15, 2017: \$10.10

This rate applies **only** to employees whose regular employment duties include serving liquor directly to customers, guests, members or patrons in premises for which a licence has been issued under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*.

A “liquor server” means an employee

- (a) whose **primary duties** are as a server of food or drink or both, and
- (b) who, as a **regular part** of his or her employment, serves liquor directly to customers, guests, members, or patrons in premises for which a licence to sell liquor has been issued under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*.

The liquor server minimum wage applies to employees whose primary duties involve serving food or liquor directly to customers. Hosts, bussers, dishwashers, cooks and other kitchen workers whose primary duties do not include serving liquor must be paid the regular minimum wage. If one of these employees is occasionally required to serve liquor, the regular minimum wage rate still applies to them.

If a server’s regular employment duties include serving food and drink but **not** liquor, then the liquor server minimum wage rate does not apply. Instead, the server is entitled to be paid the regular minimum wage (See *Minimum Wage* factsheet).

This may include a server in unlicensed premises or a server in licensed premises who does not normally work shifts during the hours where liquor may be served. If serving liquor is not a regular part of the server’s employment duties, the regular minimum wage rate applies.

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Questions and Answers

Q: I am a hostess in a restaurant. My primary duties are greeting guests and taking them to their table and providing them with their menus. Does the minimum wage rate for liquor servers apply to me?

A: No, in order to be covered by the liquor server minimum wage rate, you must be a server who serves liquor as a regular part of your job duties.

Q: I work the breakfast shift at a restaurant which has a liquor licence, but I do not actually serve liquor during my shift. Does the wage rate for liquor servers apply?

A: No. As you do not serve liquor as part of your employment duties the regular minimum wage rate would apply to you.

Q: I am a bartender in a pub style restaurant. Does the liquor server minimum wage rate apply to me?

A: If there is bar seating where you are serving liquor directly to customers then you are considered to be a liquor server and the liquor server rate applies to you. If you only mix or pour liquor that is then delivered to customers by a server, the regular minimum wage rate applies to you.

Q: I work in a licensed restaurant as a server and as part of my duties I am required to serve liquor. Which wage rate applies to me?

A: If your regular job duties include serving liquor directly to customers then the wage for liquor servers applies to you.

Q: I work as a server on rotating shifts, so sometimes I work during the morning, but I also work the lunch and dinner hours. While I generally never serve liquor on the morning shift I do serve liquor when I work the lunch and dinner shifts. Does my wage rate change depending on what shift I'm working?

A: If part of your regular employment duties includes serving liquor, even though you do not do so every shift, the liquor server wage rate applies to you. The liquor server wage rate applies to your whole employment relationship and does not change from shift to shift.

Q: Are employers who sell liquor to customers in cold beer and wine stores or private liquor stores covered by the liquor server wage rate?

A: No. Employees working in these establishments are selling liquor for offsite consumption and are not liquor servers.
