

# Code of Conduct (party bus operators)

This Code of Conduct outlines the minimum standards of behaviour that Liquor Control Victoria (LCV) expects of patron and party bus operators. Party bus operators may choose to include additional requirements.

This code applies only to party bus operators who hold a BYO permit. Party bus operators who hold a licence to supply alcohol on board must meet different requirements under the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*, and should adopt a Code of Conduct that complies with the conditions of their licence.

## Patron responsibilities

### Patrons boarding the bus:

- must produce proof of age documentation at the time of pick-up
- must not take alcohol off the bus during the course of the trip
- must not, at any stage while travelling on or disembarking from the bus:
  - behave in a manner likely to distract the driver of the bus
  - urinate in a public place—including a street, lane, alleyway or doorway
  - litter—including empty drink containers, food wrappings or cigarette butts
  - vandalise property, the bus, or another vehicle
  - make excessive noise
  - bring, consume or distribute illegal drugs
  - behave in a violent or aggressive manner
  - behave in an indecent or offensive manner
- must comply with a direction by a police officer or LCV Inspector including a direction to produce proof of age documentation.

## Offences

Under the *Summary Offences Act 1966*, it is an offence to be drunk or drunk and disorderly in a public place.

In addition, the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* (the Act) prohibits:

- underage drinking
- antisocial behaviour in and around licensed premises
- disturbance of the neighbourhood amenity
- refusing a direction by a police member or LCV Inspector.

Patrons who do not comply with the Act may be guilty of an offence and issued an infringement notice or be ordered by a court to pay a fine.

## Party bus operator responsibilities

The operator of the party bus will promote the responsible behaviour of patrons, including the responsible consumption of alcohol. To meet this requirement, the operator will comply with the following:

- If visiting licensed premises notify the owners beforehand of the date, approximate time and number of patrons who will be attending.

- Avoid entering into any agreements with licensed venues that encourage irresponsible consumption of alcohol.
- Display the BYO permit and the following mandatory signs, in a prominent place on the bus:
  - Unruly Behaviour
  - Under 18? No supply.

Provide the hirer with the Code of Conduct at the time of booking and make the code available on the website. The operator must also:

- Keep a copy of the Code of Conduct on the bus, and make a verbal announcement about patron responsibilities and prohibited behaviours at the start of the trip.
- Check each patron's proof of age and refuse entry to minors unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, spouse or responsible adult.
- If stopping at one or more destinations during the trip, remove any alcohol still remaining at the first venue stop, place it in the storage area under the bus, and return it to patrons at the end of the trip.
- If stopping at licensed premises, inform staff members or crowd controllers about patrons who appear to be intoxicated.
- Monitor the amount of alcohol consumed and attend to any patron who appears to be intoxicated by:
  - asking the patron to remain on the bus with a 'buddy' to sober up
  - arranging a taxi for the patron, if practicable.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that patrons do not cause a public nuisance—for example: littering, making excessive noise, congregating in a public place, or behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that pick-up and drop-off points provide easy access to public toilets and public transport (for example train, tram, bus or taxi).
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that patrons do not take alcohol off the bus during the trip.
- Familiarise yourself with the local laws operating in the areas in which you will be travelling.
- Allow a police officer or LCV Inspector on board to carry out their functions under the Act.

## Offences

The Act prohibits behaviour including:

- allowing patrons to bring or consume alcohol on the bus in a designated area between 8pm and 5am without a BYO permit
- permitting underage drinking
- refusing a direction by a police officer or LCV Inspector.

A party bus operator who does not comply with the Act may be charged or issued with an infringement notice.