

PRIORITY ONE. A location will be classified as priority one when an agent issues an administrative notice for a public safety violation.

PRIORITY TWO. A location will be classified as priority two when:

- the location was previously classified as priority one and completes three consecutive inspections in which no additional public safety violations are found;
- the location was previously classified as priority three and an agent issues one or more additional citations for a public safety criminal violation committed on the licensed premises; or
- the location is not classified as a priority location and an agent issues a citation for a public safety criminal violation committed on the licensed premises (felony committed by any person, or class A or B misdemeanor committed by the permittee).

PRIORITY THREE. A location will be classified as priority three when:

- the location was previously classified as priority two and it has been six months since the last public safety violation; or
- the location was not previously classified as a priority location and an agent issues a citation for a public safety criminal violation committed on the licensed premises (misdemeanor usually committed by someone other than the permittee).

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

For additional information about inspections, the Priority List, or any other enforcement or compliance operations, call your local TABC district office:

REGION 1

ABILENE	(325) 672-8111
AMARILLO	(806) 353-1286
EL PASO	(915) 834-5860
LUBBOCK	(806) 793-3221
ODESSA	(432) 367-0760

REGION 2

DALLAS	(214) 678-4000
FT. WORTH	(817) 451-9466
LONGVIEW	(903) 759-7828

REGION 3

HOUSTON	(713) 426-7900
BEAUMONT	(409) 898-3116

REGION 4

AUSTIN	(512) 451-0231
WACO	(254) 776-7626
VICTORIA	(361) 575-4776

REGION 5

SAN ANTONIO	(210) 731-1720
CORPUS CHRISTI	(361) 851-2531
MCALLEN	(956) 687-5141

Project SAVE (Stop Alcohol Violations Early) is an educational program designed to prevent illegal alcohol sales and use through public education and awareness. TABC provides retail employees with training on the risks involved in the sale and service of alcoholic beverages.

Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission
5806 Mesa Drive
P.O. Box 13127
Austin, Texas 78711
512-206-3333 (Information)
1-888-THE-TABC (Complaints)
TDD 512-206-3270

www.tabc.state.tx.us



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Inspections of Retail Locations

...encouraging responsible alcoholic beverage service through voluntary compliance



Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Retail Location Inspections

TABC regulates the alcoholic beverage industry in Texas in part by conducting inspections of licensed retail locations. The agency strives to inspect all licensed premises at least once a year.

TABC enforcement agents and compliance auditors conduct inspections for the following purposes:

- **Unique inspections** are conducted to evaluate a location that has not yet been inspected during the current fiscal year.
- **Complaint investigations** are conducted to investigate a complaint.
- **Risk-based inspections** are conducted at licensed locations that have been the site of public safety violations in the past 12 months. These locations are referred to as **Priority Locations**.
- **Other inspections** may be conducted on a routine basis to facilitate other investigations or operations.

Risk-Based Inspections

When a licensed establishment is involved in certain administrative or criminal violations, it indicates a risk to public safety. TABC refers to these breaches of the law as “**public safety violations,**” and they include incidents involving:

- Minors;
- Intoxicated persons;
- Drugs;
- Breaches of the peace; and
- Sales or consumption during prohibited hours.

A location that is cited for a public safety violation is included on the agency’s **Priority List**, and risk-based inspections are conducted to ensure that the **Priority Location** complies with the law.

If an agent issues more than one citation on one occasion, this will only count as one violation for the purpose of the priority list.

TABC’s Enforcement Division monitors the occurrence of these public safety violations. Agents will work with permittees and licensees in an effort to eliminate the public safety risk.

How often can a Priority Location expect to be inspected?

A location classified as **Priority One** will be inspected at least once every 14 days until it has undergone three inspections with no public safety violations found. At that time, the location will become a Priority Two.

A location classified as **Priority Two** will be inspected at least once a month until six months have passed since the last public safety violation. At that time, the location will become a Priority Three.

A location classified as **Priority Three** will be inspected at least once every three months until it has been 12 months since the last public safety violation. At that time, the location will drop off the Priority List.

Inspections may be conducted in an open or undercover capacity.



How will a permit holder know he/she is on the Priority List?

When a location is first classified as Priority One or Two, an agent will attempt to arrange a meeting with the permittee or licensee.

The agent will explain the following topics:

- the purpose of risk-based enforcement;
- the priority list;
- the reason the location is on the priority list;
- the general inspection schedule for the different levels of the priority list; and
- the possibility that some inspections may be conducted undercover.

The agent will offer **Project SAVE** education to the permittee or licensee, as well as suggestions of “best practices” and others ways to prevent violations of the law.

TABC will allow time for the permittee or licensee to make operational changes before conducting follow-up inspections. Locations will be given more time if the training is accepted (possibly a few weeks) versus if it is denied (possibly only a few days).