



A Newsletter for Idaho Tobacco Retailers

Sponsored by Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

Contact IDHW's Idaho Tobacco Project at: 877-641-4468
ID Tobacco Project Website: healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers
Select the topic "Retailers" then "Idaho Tobacco Project."

Volume 22, Issue 3
March 2023

2023 FACTS AND STATS

What was the Compliance Grade for state tobacco and electronic smoking device inspections?

**Grade A
for
February 2023**

According to Idaho Code 39-5701, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare must inspect each Permitted Retailer that sells tobacco and electronic smoking devices to ensure that it does not sell these products to minors.

How well did these Permitted Retailers comply with the law in February 2023?

- 191 Permitted Retailers were inspected.*
- 5 Permitted Retailers sold to the inspecting minor.
- The compliance rate for February 2023 was:

96.34%

GREAT WORK!

*Non-minor Exempt Inspections where purchase attempts were made.

ARE YOU READY TO SPOT FAKE IDs?

We Want You to Succeed!

The Idaho Department of Health & Welfare wants you to successfully navigate state tobacco and electronic smoking device inspections and to consistently refuse the sale of these products to anyone under the age of 21. We do not want any retailer or clerk getting fined for violations under [Idaho Code 39-5701, et. seq.](#) Furthermore, we would be very happy if all of Idaho's Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Device Retailers never sold to anyone under 21.

This is one of the reasons we provide a monthly newsletter so that you have all the information needed to refuse the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to Idaho's minors and young adults. These monthly newsletters should be shared with all retail staff and clerks. Sharing this newsletter with your frontline clerks enables them to be up to date on the latest state and federal tobacco laws, inspection activities, and helpful technique to refusing the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to those customers under 21. Be sure to review this and other monthly newsletters for important updates, and don't forget to check out our [newsletter archive](#) for helpful refreshers.

We appreciate your help in preventing Idaho's minors and young adults from using tobacco and electronic smoking devices while underage. Working together - - We can make a difference!

Tips for Spotting Fake, Borrowed, or Altered IDs

By [federal law](#), retailers are required to verify the age of anyone under 30 years old by checking their ID card prior to their purchase of tobacco and electronic smoking devices. As part of this age verification activity, it is important that clerks can spot a fake ID when they see one. The first step in identifying a fake ID is to know what a valid Idaho state issued drivers license looks like. All individuals over the age of 21 will have a standard horizontal ID card. Anyone under 21 will have a vertically shaped ID card. Visit Preventthesale.com to see some samples.

Fake IDs have become more sophisticated as technology advances and online services offer to create "real-looking and scannable" IDs for a fee. It is more important than ever to know what to look for when checking IDs as part of your age verification activities.

Here are tips for spotting possible fake IDs to ensure that your customer is eligible to legally purchase tobacco and/or electronic smoking devices:

1. Always ask for ID of any customer who appears under the age of 30.
2. Watch the customer's behavior for signs of nervousness, such as darting eyes or squirming.
3. Compare the customer's face with the photo on the ID. While hair styles and color can change - height and weight are helpful clues.
4. Compare the customer's height and weight to what is listed on the ID. The customer's height and weight should be an approximate match to what is listed on the ID. While weight can fluctuate, adults rarely have significant changes to their height.
5. Ask the customer some basic questions, like: "What is the house number listed on this ID's street address?" "When is your birthday?" "How tall are you?" "What does your middle initial stand for?" "What is the zodiac sign for your birthday?" A customer with a valid ID should be able to easily answer these questions without hesitation or signs of nervous behavior.
6. Check the IDs holograms and overlays to see if they match with current valid ID formats.
7. Look at the ID card for signs of damage or alteration, like: fuzzy numbers or letters, red eye in the photo, bubbles on the surface, and/or rough edges. Is the ID card thinner or thicker than a valid ID? Check the section that contains the birth date, height, weight, expiration date to see if the information matches up properly to the section headers. Use a valid ID to compare it to the ID in question. There should be no visible or physical differences. Any differences could be signs of tampering.
8. Check the date of the ID. Sometimes an expired license on a card means that the original owner may have given it away. You can also check an ID to see if it has been marked as a duplicate or been punched with a hole by the DMV making the card invalid.
9. If the ID is out of state, you can look at a [recent book of each state's driver's license details](#) and compare the ID, or look at [Preventthesale.com](#) for other nearby state IDs samples.
10. Ask the person for another form of identification if you are still unsure. It is unlikely that the customer will have other cards with a fake identification.

There are various online resources and even online videos with tips for retailers on how to spot fake, altered, or borrowed IDs. Here are a few resources to get you started: [Preventthesale.com](#), <http://www.wikihow.com/Spot-a-Fake-I.D>, and <https://www.360training.com/blog/spot-fake-id>. In addition, as tobacco and electronic smoking device retailers you may be eligible to purchase the updated ID Guide from https://www.driverslicenseguide.com/products_summary.html. While there is a fee for this ID Guidebook, it is a great resource as it contains each state's valid ID format and license details to assist in conducting age verification activities.

Prevent-The-Sale!

Idaho Tobacco Retailers have two resources for Prevent-The-Sale content: Visit Idaho's Department of Health and Welfare's official [Idaho Tobacco Project-Prevent The Sale](#) webpage for statewide information. Visit Idaho Tobacco Projects interactive website [Preventthesale.com](#) for interactive and evolving content, including newsletter archives, information on IDs, and downloadable resources and documents. This site has new material available for download!



Contact IDHW's Idaho Tobacco Project at: 877-641-4468

Volume 22, Issue 3
March 2023

ID Tobacco Project Website: healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers
Select the topic "Retailers" then "Idaho Tobacco Project."

What's inside?

- Facts and Stats
- We Want You to Succeed!
- Spotting Fake, Altered or Borrowed IDs
- Prevent-The-Sale Resources

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES