



Contact IDHW's Idaho Tobacco Project at: 877-641-4468
ID Tobacco Project Website: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers>*
*Scroll down to the topic "Retailers" then select "Idaho Tobacco Project."

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Facts and Stats

What was the Compliance Grade for March 2025's state tobacco and electronic smoking device inspections?

Grade A

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 customers under the age of 21.

How well did these Permitted Retailers comply with the law in March 2025?

- 348 Permitted Retailers were inspected. *
- 25 Permitted Retailers sold to the underage inspector.
- The compliance rate for March 2025 was:

92.82%
Keep It Up!

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

Helping Customers, Protecting Youth: Retailer Tips for Tobacco Sales & Safety

Important Health Update on Dual Use of Tobacco and E-Cigarettes

A recent study by the [American Cancer Society](#) highlights significant health risks associated with the concurrent use of combustible cigarettes and e-cigarettes, commonly referred to as "dual use." The research indicates that adults who engage in dual use are exposed to levels of harmful substances comparable to those found in traditional cigarette smoking alone. These exposures are linked to increased risks of cancer, cardiovascular disease, reproductive and developmental issues, and respiratory harm.

Key Takeaways for Idaho Tobacco Retailers

- **Dual Use Is Not Safer:** Combining smoking and vaping does not reduce health risks. Dual users face similar exposure to toxicants as individuals who exclusively smoke cigarettes.
- **Health Risks Are Cumulative:** The simultaneous use of both products may lead to compounded health hazards, potentially exacerbating the risk of serious diseases.
- **Public Perception vs. Reality:** While some consumers believe that using both products might mitigate harm, evidence suggests this is a misconception.

Implications for Retail Practices

As trusted points of sale, Idaho tobacco and vape retailers play a crucial role in public health education. By proactively addressing the misconceptions surrounding dual use, retailers can contribute to the well-being of their communities and support efforts to reduce tobacco-related health issues.

Consider the following actions:

- **Educate Staff:** Ensure that employees are informed about the risks associated with dual use to provide accurate information to customers.
- **Inform Customers:** Display informational materials that clearly communicate the health risks of dual use, helping customers make informed decisions.
- **Promote Cessation Resources:** Guide interested customers toward reputable smoking cessation programs and resources.

Three Compliance Reminder for Retailers:

Barriers Required for Tobacco & Vape

Idaho law requires a physical barrier (counter or locked case) between customers and tobacco/vape products—unless you qualify for a Vendor Assisted Sales Exemption (stores where 75% or more of sales are tobacco/vape products).

Do:

- ✓ Use locked displays or staff-controlled counters
- ✓ Train staff on access rules
- ✓ Clearly post age 21+ signage

Don't:

- ✓ Allow customer access to open shelving
- ✓ Leave products out on counters or end caps
- ✓ Combine tobacco displays with candy/snack items

Note: Being a 21+ store, age-restricted business (like a Bar) **does not** exempt you from vendor assistance rules. Learn more by downloading a copy of Idaho's law "[Prevention of Minors' Access to Tobacco Products or Electronic Smoking Devices](#)."

Check Every ID, Every Time

Tobacco and vape sales are restricted to customers 21 and over—no exceptions. Always verify with a valid, unexpired photo ID.

- ✓ **Tip:** Use an ID scanner, if possible, for added accuracy.

Internet Sales Are Still Regulated

Even online or delivery sales must comply with age verification laws. If you are offering remote sales, make sure your process includes:

- ✓ Age verification at purchase and delivery
- ✓ No shipping to minors

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.



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PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEE