



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 October 2025's state tobacco and electronic smoking device inspections?

Grade **B**

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 October 2025?

- 132 Permitted Retailers were inspected.*
- 17 Permitted Retailers sold to the underage inspector.
- The compliance rate for October 2025 was:

87.12%

Stay Vigilant!

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

A Troubling Trend — Sales to Minors Are Rising

Permit Renewal Reminder — Deadline Approaching

If you haven't yet renewed your Idaho Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Device Permit for 2026, now is the time!

- Your 2025 permit expires **December 31, 2025**.
- Avoid last-minute technical issues or potential violations. **Renew online** at TobaccoPermits.com/Idaho — it's free and accessible 24/7.

Need help?

- Call the ITP assistance line: **877-641-4468**
- Or use the **"Contact Us"** feature on the homepage.

Let's finish the year strong — and compliant!

Compliance Is Slipping — Let's Turn It Around

For the first time this year, Idaho's statewide violation rate for tobacco and electronic smoking device sales to minors has **exceeded 10%**.

Take a look at the **Facts and Stats** section of this newsletter. Notice the compliance rate for October 2025 was just **87.12%**. This marks a **noticeable decline from previous months** and confirms a **worrisome upward trend in sales-to-minors violations** over the past year. The rise in failed inspections not only threatens public health but also puts Idaho's standing with federal compliance benchmarks — such as the Synar requirement to remain under 10% — at risk. Now is the time for every retailer to review practices, retrain where needed, and recommit to consistent ID checks at every point of sale.

What You Can Do:

- **Reinforce ID checks:** Every customer who appears under 30 must show valid ID.
- **Retrain staff if needed:** A single misstep can lead to a violation.
- **Remind clerks:** Refusing a sale is not just the law — it's public service.
- **Check signage:** Ensure age-restriction posters are visible and up to date.

Retailers are a vital partner in this effort. Thank you for your continued commitment to youth prevention — especially as we approach the busy holiday season. Your vigilance makes a real difference.

Holiday Traffic Is Coming — So Are More Minors

As the holiday season approaches, stores often see an uptick in foot traffic — including more teens and young adults shopping without parents. Now is a good time to **remind staff to stay alert**, especially during busy shifts when distractions are high.

Make ID checks a **non-negotiable part of every transaction**. A quick pause can prevent a costly mistake — and protect a life.

A Note of Thanks

As we enter the season of gratitude, we want to express our sincere appreciation for **you — our Idaho tobacco and electronic smoking device retailers**. Your role in upholding the law, protecting youth, and supporting public health is vital, especially as we navigate the challenges of compliance and enforcement together. Your dedication helps us meet statewide goals, maintain federal compliance standards, and — most importantly — protect the next generation.

From all of us at the Idaho Tobacco Project: **Thank you for your partnership, your effort, and your continued commitment to responsible retailing.**

This Month's Health Highlight:

Nicotine and Youth Mental Health: What We Know

Emerging research links adolescent nicotine use with **increased anxiety, depression, and attention issues**. Despite the popular belief that vaping relieves stress, nicotine may **worsen emotional and cognitive symptoms**, particularly in teens who are already struggling.

According to the CDC, the developing brain is **more vulnerable** to nicotine's impact. Addiction at an early age can disrupt sleep, motivation, mood regulation, and overall mental well-being.

Retailers and clerks play a powerful role in prevention. **Stopping the sale before it starts** can help protect not only physical health — but the mental and emotional health of the next generation.

Source: [CDC-Health Effects of Vaping](#)

Prevent-The-Sale!

Idaho Tobacco Retailers have two trusted resources to support compliance:

- **Idaho Tobacco Project Site:** healthandwelfare.idaho.gov
- **Interactive Training & Resources:** PreventTheSale.com/Idaho

There you'll find:

- Free training modules
- Sample ID examples
- Refresher resources
- Downloadable signage

Use these tools to support your staff — and stay ready for every sale and every inspection.



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