



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."

## Facts and Stats

**What was the Compliance Grade for February 2026'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 for February 2026?

- 336 Permitted Retailers were inspected.\*
- 18 Permitted Retailers sold to the underage inspector.
- The compliance rate for February 2026 was:

**94.64%**

**Stay Vigilant!**

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

## Every Sale Matters: A Team Approach to Compliance

### Compliance Is a Team Effort - Every Role Matters

Strong compliance doesn't happen by chance; it happens when every member of your team understands their role and follows the same standard every time.

While clerks are on the front line of every sale, compliance is not just a cashier responsibility. Store owners, managers, and supervisors all play a critical role in setting expectations, reinforcing policies, and supporting staff in making the right decision - even during busy or challenging moments.

### What this looks like in practice

- **Clerks** check ID every time for anyone who appears under **30**, verify birthdates carefully, and follow store policy without exception.
- **Managers** ensure staff are trained, supported, and reminded that compliance comes before speed or convenience.
- **Store leadership** sets the tone by making compliance a visible priority - every day.

When everyone is on the same page, compliance becomes part of your store's routine, not something that depends on one person or one moment.

### Why it matters

Most violations are not caused by lack of knowledge. They happen when expectations are unclear or inconsistently reinforced. A team-based approach helps prevent those gaps.

Regular check-ins, quick reminders at shift changes, and clear expectations across all staff can make a measurable difference.

### Bottom line

Every sale is a shared responsibility. When your team is committed to doing it right, your store is better prepared, better protected, and better positioned to pass every inspection.

## Quick Tip: Make Compliance Part of Every Shift

A quick 30-second reminder at the start of a shift can prevent mistakes:

- “Check ID for anyone under 30.”
- “No ID = No Sale.”
- “Take your time - accuracy matters.”

Small reminders keep compliance top of mind during busy hours.

## Support Your Team - Especially New Staff

Turnover happens, especially early in the year. Take a moment to confirm:

- New employees completed training before working the register
- Staff understand how to verify IDs correctly
- Everyone knows your store’s expectations

A quick review today can prevent a violation tomorrow.

## Monthly Health Highlight: Youth Vaping and Nicotine Addiction

### What the Science Shows

Nicotine exposure during adolescence can have lasting effects on brain development. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the brain continues developing into the mid-20s, and nicotine can interfere with areas responsible for attention, learning, mood, and impulse control.

Youth who begin using nicotine products are also more likely to develop long-term dependence. Because many e-cigarettes contain high levels of nicotine, even occasional use can quickly lead to addiction.

### Why it matters

Preventing early access helps reduce the risk of long-term addiction and protects developing brains during a critical stage of growth. Retailers play an important role by consistently checking ID and refusing sales to anyone under 21.

Source: [CDC – Health Effects of Vaping](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/quit_help/resources/health_effects_of_vaping/)

## Prevent-The-Sale!

Idaho Tobacco Retailers have two trusted resources to support compliance:

- **Idaho Tobacco Project Site:** [healthandwelfare.idaho.gov](https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov)
- **Interactive Training & Resources:** [PreventTheSale.com/Idaho](https://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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**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEE**