



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 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 March 2026?

- 258 Permitted Retailers were inspected.\*
- 13 Permitted Retailers sold to the underage inspector.
- The compliance rate for March 2026 was:

**94.96%**

**Stay Vigilant!**

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

## Spring Travel Brings More Customers and New IDs

### New Faces, Same Rules: Stay Sharp with Every ID

Spring brings more travel, school activities, events, and visitors moving through Idaho stores. That can mean more customers you do not recognize - including young adults, out-of-state travelers, and people carrying IDs your staff may not see every day.

The rule does not change based on where a customer is from. If a customer appears under 30, staff must check photo ID before selling tobacco or electronic smoking device products. The customer must be 21 or older - no exceptions. FDA guidance also reminds retailers to check photo ID for anyone under 30 who tries to buy tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery products.

Out-of-state IDs can feel harder to read, especially during busy shifts. Clerks may see different license colors, layouts, expiration dates, or placement of birthdate information. That is why it is important to slow down and check the key details every time.

Before completing the sale, staff should confirm:

- The ID belongs to the customer.
- The photo matches the person.
- The ID is not expired.
- The birthdate shows the customer is 21 or older.
- The ID does not appear altered or damaged.

When in doubt, pause. Ask a manager for help. It is better to take a few extra seconds than to make an illegal sale.

A customer may be visiting from another state, traveling with friends, or shopping at your store for the first time - - But every customer must meet the same legal standard. New faces do not change the rule. Strong habits protect your staff, your permit, and Idaho youth.

## Quick Tips:

### Use Age-Check Tools Every Time

Do not rely on memory or quick math during a busy shift. Use the tools available at your register:

- ID scanner
- Age-of-sale calendar
- Register prompt
- “Under 21 Until” date when available

FDA also offers retailer age-verification resources through its [“This is Our Watch”](#) program, including a digital age verification calendar.

### Expired ID = No Sale

An expired ID is not valid for age verification.

Even if the customer is clearly over 21, an expired license cannot be accepted for tobacco or vape purchases.

Before completing a sale, always check:

- Expiration date
- Photo match
- Birthdate

If the ID is expired, refuse the sale. No exceptions.

## Monthly Health Highlight:

### Nicotine and Pregnancy: Not a Safe Choice

Nicotine is not safe during pregnancy. According to the CDC, e-cigarettes and other nicotine products can harm a developing baby’s brain and lungs. CDC also notes that e-cigarettes are not approved by FDA as a quit-smoking aid. This matters because some people may believe vaping is harmless or safer during pregnancy. The science does not support that message. Nicotine exposure can create risks during a critical time of growth and development.

Retailers can help by following the law every time: check ID, refuse sales to anyone under 21, and keep tobacco and vape products out of the hands of youth.

**Source:** [CDC – E-Cigarettes and Pregnancy](#)

## Prevent-The-Sale!

Idaho Tobacco Retailers have two trusted resources to support compliance:

- **Idaho Tobacco Project Site:**  
[healthandwelfare.idaho.gov](http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov)
- **Interactive Training & Resources:**  
[PreventTheSale.com/Idaho](http://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**