



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 April 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 April 2026?

- 107 Permitted Retailers were inspected.*
- 4 Permitted Retailers sold to the underage inspector.
- The compliance rate for April 2026 was:

96.26%

Stay Vigilant!

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

Disposable Vapes Create More Than Just Waste

Disposable vape devices have become increasingly common in stores across the country. But many people do not realize these products can create safety and environmental concerns after they are thrown away.

Disposable e-cigarettes often contain:

- nicotine liquid,
- lithium batteries,
- plastics,
- and electronic components.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), e-cigarettes should not be thrown in regular household trash or recycling bins because they may contain hazardous waste materials.

Improper disposal can increase the risk of:

- battery fires,
- chemical leaks,
- accidental nicotine exposure,
- and environmental contamination.

Retailers are not expected to become waste experts, but awareness matters. Employees should understand that damaged, leaking, or discarded vape devices may require careful handling.

Simple steps can help reduce risk:

- Store products securely away from heat or damage.
- Follow manufacturer storage instructions.
- Watch for leaking or damaged products.
- Do not place damaged lithium battery devices near flammable materials.

As vape products continue evolving, retailers play an important role in product awareness, safe handling, and protecting the community from avoidable risks. Following Idaho's tobacco and electronic smoking device laws - including checking ID and refusing sales to anyone under 21 - helps keep these products out of the hands of youth and helps keep youth safe.

Quick Tips:

Keep Signage Easy to See

Age-of-sale signs should remain clearly visible to both employees and customers.

Take a quick walk through your store and check:

- entrances,
- registers,
- and customer checkout areas.

Clear signage helps support consistent compliance.

Reminder: “No ID” Still Means “No Sale”

Busy spring and summer months often bring more unfamiliar customers into stores.

Even during busy shifts:

- Check ID for anyone who appears under 30.
- Verify the birthdate carefully.
- Refuse the sale if valid ID is not provided.

Strong habits help prevent violations before summer traffic increases.

Monthly Health Highlight:

Secondhand Vape Aerosol Is Not Harmless

Some people believe vape aerosol is “just water vapor,” but health agencies say that is not accurate.

According to the CDC and EPA, secondhand e-cigarette aerosol can contain:

- nicotine,
- ultrafine particles,
- heavy metals,
- and other potentially harmful chemicals.

Children, pregnant women, and people with asthma or lung conditions may be especially sensitive to these exposures.

Why it matters:

Retailers play an important role in reducing youth access to nicotine products and supporting healthier environments in the community.

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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PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEE