



A Newsletter for Idaho Tobacco Retailers Sponsored by Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

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."

Volume 25, Issue 7
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Facts and Stats JUNE 2026

**What was the
Compliance Grade for this
month'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 this month?

- **256** Permitted Retailers were inspected.*
- **11** Permitted Retailers sold to the underage inspector.

The **June 2026** compliance rate was:

95.70% - Keep It Up!

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

State Rules, Federal Rules - One Goal: Prevent the Sale

Idaho and Federal Tobacco Rules Work Together

Retailers who sell tobacco, nicotine products, or electronic smoking devices have more than one set of rules to follow. Idaho law and federal FDA rules work together. They may come from different agencies, but the goal is the same: prevent sales **to anyone under 21** and keep these products out of the hands of youth.

In Idaho, retailers must have a current tobacco permit before selling covered tobacco or electronic smoking device products. Idaho law also requires businesses to train employees who sell these products. The [Idaho Tobacco Project](#) provides information to help retailers understand Idaho permit requirements, state law, and retailer responsibilities.

Federal law also matters. The [FDA Center for Tobacco Products](#) says retailers may not sell tobacco products - including cigarettes, cigars, and e-cigarettes - **to anyone under 21**. FDA guidance also reminds retailers to **check photo ID for anyone under 30** who tries to buy tobacco products. For stores, the safest approach is to keep the rule simple:

- ✓ check ID,
- ✓ confirm the customer is **21** or older, and
- ✓ refuse the sale if the ID is missing, expired, altered, or cannot be verified.

This applies even when the store is busy, the customer is familiar, or the product does not look like a traditional cigarette.

Bottom Line

State and federal rules may sound complicated, but the daily practice is simple. Keep your permit current, train staff, check ID, and do not sell to anyone **under 21**. These steps help protect your business, your employees, and Idaho youth.

Quick Tips:

Do Your Products Require a Permit?

Some products do not look like traditional tobacco products, but they may still fall under Idaho law.

Before adding or selling tobacco products, nicotine products, electronic smoking devices, parts, components, or accessories, make sure your store has a current Idaho tobacco permit.

Retailers can review [Idaho Code Title 39, Chapter 57](#) to learn more. The full definition of “tobacco product or electronic smoking device” is found in [Idaho Code 39-5702\(18\)](#).

Keep Training Forms Up to Date

Employee training is not just helpful - it is part of staying compliant.

Make sure employees who sell tobacco or electronic smoking device products understand Idaho law and know your store’s sales policy. Keep signed training forms where managers can find them, especially when new employees start or job duties change.

Monthly Health Highlight: Quit Support Is Available in Idaho

Quitting tobacco, vaping, or nicotine products can be difficult, but help is available. **Project Filter** is Idaho’s tobacco prevention and cessation program. It offers free resources and support for Idahoans who want to quit smoking, vaping, chewing, or using other nicotine products.

Retailers do not need to counsel customers. But knowing where reliable help is available can be useful if a customer, employee, or community member asks for support.

Source: [Project Filter](#); [IDHW Tobacco, Nicotine, and Vaping Cessation](#)

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