

IDAHO TOBACCO INSPECTIONS: The What, Who, and Why

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Facts and Stats

“C+” Average for July

According to Idaho Code 39-5701 the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare must inspect each business that sells tobacco to ensure that it does not sell tobacco to minors. For July, 2003:

- ❖ 118 Vendors were inspected.*
- ❖ 25 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- ❖ The compliance rate for the month of July of 2003 was 78.81%.

*Inspections where purchase attempts were made.

Prevent the Sale

Go to:

www.preventthesale.com/idaho

- Learn about the law
- Take the tobacco quiz
- See what the ID's look like
- Play the Game "Would You Sell to This Person?"

What about Tobacco Inspections?

Did you know that businesses with tobacco permits are required to be inspected at least once per year by law? Did you also know that you have some control over how many additional inspections the law requires? According to Idaho Code 39-5710, at least one random, unannounced inspection should be conducted at each business where tobacco products are sold at retail. Further, the total number of inspections required per year is based on the non-compliance rate of the previous year. The total number of inspections that the law requires is equal to the number of permitted businesses multiplied by the percentage of the previous years violations multiplied by ten.

For example, in the year 2002, 1827 valid permits were issued and the non-compliance rate (the number of businesses that sold to minors) was 13.89%. That's calculated: $1827 \times 13.89\% \times 10 = 2537.70$. So, by law, the total number of inspections that must be conducted for the year 2003 is 2538.

Your effort to prevent the sale of tobacco to minors, not only helps minors, but helps you. Lowering the non-compliance rate (not selling

tobacco to minors) reduces the number of inspections that must be conducted by law, and reduces the number of times your business is inspected each year.

The Inspection Team

The Inspection Team is made up of an adult inspector, an inspecting minor and an escort. Each member of the team is required to complete a comprehensive training program.

The Inspector

The inspector's job is to oversee all inspections and lead the inspection team. If a business successfully completes an inspection, the inspector reports that success to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) and a congratulatory letter is sent to the business. If, however, the business fails the inspection, it is the inspector's job to issue a citation to the clerk immediately, and to the business owner by mail.

Our inspectors take no joy from issuing citations. They hope that each business will successfully refuse the sale to the minor, but if the business fails, the inspector is bound by law to issue a citation and report the violation to DHW. The inspector is given no option to issue warnings.

Tobacco Inspections! continued

The Inspecting Minor

The inspecting minors are all under the age of 18. If the clerk refuses to sell to the minor, the minor leaves the business without further incident. If, however, the clerk sells the tobacco to the minor, the minor is to buy the tobacco and take it to the adult inspector for processing.

The inspecting minor is trained to NEVER use any trickery or to lie. For example, the minors will not lie about their age, if questioned. The minor will also show their valid Idaho state drivers license when it is requested by the clerk. The minors never present fake, altered or borrowed ID's.

The inspecting minor participates in these inspections to assist the fight against teen smoking. The inspecting minor sincerely hopes that each tobacco vendor and their employees will successfully pass each inspection.

The Escort

The escort's job is to ensure the safety of the teens while they initiate and complete inspections. The escort also assists the adult inspectors as needed.

While the escorts do not issue citations or head inspection teams, they are committed the prevention of tobacco sales to minors.

You are also part of the team!

By law, inspections must be done for every business that sells tobacco products, and citations must be issued for failure to comply with Idaho's laws. However, as tobacco vendors and clerks, you can take an active role and be part of the prevent-the-sale team!

As the first line of defense, you can be the barrier between teens and tobacco. If you're not sure how to start:

- ask all customers for ID and check it carefully
- know the law and work policies
- actively participate in any job training provided to you
- refresh and retrain by visiting the preventthesale.com website.

While inspections are bound to occur, we hope that your commitment to preventing the sale not only minimize the number of additional inspections performed each year and reduces the amount of fines and citations issued, but will, most importantly, help Idaho's children stay tobacco free.

VOLUME 02. NUMBER 8 AUGUST.2003



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◆ PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES