

Can You Tell a Fake?

By Cheryl Dudley

Facts and Stats

“A” Average for MARCH

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. In MARCH 2007:

- ❖ 217 Vendors were inspected.*
- ❖ 21 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- ❖ The compliance rate for the month of March 2007 was 90.32%

*Inspections where purchase attempts were made.

Prevent the Sale Web site

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?"

Businesses Must Train Employees

According to the law, Idaho businesses that sell tobacco must train their employees about minors and tobacco. If employees sell tobacco to someone under age 18, they personally can be fined \$100.

Idaho Code 39-5701 states that it is illegal to sell tobacco products to persons less than 18 years of age. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to:

- Cigarettes
- Cigars
- Pipes
- Snuff
- Loose leaf tobacco
- Smokeless tobacco
- Tobacco papers

It is against the law to sell, distribute or offer tobacco products to a minor. Check photo identification to determine if a person is less than 18 years old.

State inspections can occur at any time to ensure compliance with the state law. **Inspections occur without warning.**

Unless a store sells only tobacco products, all tobacco sales must be vendor-assisted. This means customers **of all ages** must ask a clerk to access tobacco products for them.

Cigarettes must be sold only in their original manufacturer's packaging. Vendors cannot sell open packs, loose

cigarettes, or any other promotional packaging if it's not packaged for sale by the manufacturer.

Tampered Identification

There are three basic types of Identification fraud: Fake, Altered, and Borrowed. **Fake IDs** are usually only slightly different from the real thing. For example, the type may be a slightly different size, or the back of the ID may be blurry. Here are some things to check for:

- the size, thickness, and color of the card
- the placement, size, and typeface of the letters and numbers
- the photograph for shading, glare, or "red-eye"
- the state seal for accuracy
- the back of the ID for blurred or dark images
- certain phrases like "for personal use," "office use only," or "not a government document"

Altered IDs often have bumpy or rough places where the laminate has been tampered with. Here are some things to check for:

- Numbers that have been scratched or bleached out and inked over or cut out and reinserted
- Overlapping numbers; the laminate may have been peeled back and replaced
- Cloudy images; a new laminate may cover the old one
- Compare the birth date to the driver's license number because in

- some states these numbers match
- Rough spots, especially around the edges and over the photo
- State seal for accuracy and completeness; an inserted photograph may cover part of it

Borrowed IDs appearances can change, but you should question even slight differences. Here are some suggestions:

- Compare the photograph and physical identifiers to the cardholder and question discrepancies
- Ask the presenter to verify personal data on the card
- Obtain a signature and compare it to the one on the card
- Watch for expired cards
- Look for signs of duplicate cards, such as "DUPL" stamp

This information was taken from www.preventthesale.com. For examples, suggestions and pointers, on identifying IDs, visit the site.

New Smoking Vaccine Tested

250 volunteers at the University of Maryland will receive shots aimed at helping stamp out nicotine addiction. The University is one of nine sites that will test a shot that "immunizes" smokers against feeling the

effects of nicotine. The vaccine, called NicVax, binds with nicotine to make a much larger molecule that can't cross the barrier from the bloodstream into the brain. (diamondbackonline.com)

Make a Difference in Your Community

- As a tobacco vendor, do not sell tobacco products to minors.
- Support businesses that don't sell tobacco to kids. Frequent restaurants and other places that are tobacco-free.
- Be sure your schools and all school events are tobacco-free.
- Partner with your local tobacco prevention programs. Call your local health department or your cancer, heart, or lung association to learn how you can get involved in community projects, such as fun runs, fund drives, or educational programs.



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