



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

Volume 15, Issue 5
May 2016

Contact us: 208-334-0642
ID Tobacco Project Website: healthandwelfare.idaho.gov
Select the "Families" menu and then "Substance Abuse"
On that page select the box titled "Idaho Tobacco Project"

Facts and Stats

Grade "A" for April

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 April 2016:

- 227 Vendors were inspected.*
- 13 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- The compliance rate for the month was 94.27%

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

Prevent the Sale Website

Preventthesale.com/Idaho

Look for our new game, additional training and point-of-sale resources for retailers, and updated ID information!

This Monthly Newsletter; A Great Training Tool

By Annette Ludington

Suggested Uses for These Monthly Newsletters

These monthly newsletters contain updated information and great reminders that are valuable not only for the tobacco retailer owners but their employees as well. Below are some suggested uses for these newsletters.

1. Have your employees read the newsletter each month as their ongoing training. This ensures they are up to date with the latest Idaho Tobacco Inspection news and it serves as a good reminder of the importance to always check IDs every time.
2. The Prevent the Sale website is always listed on the newsletter and readers can always go to this website for valuable information, training, and interactive games on how and who to ID. www.preventthesale.com
3. There is a "contact us" number on the newsletter (208-334-0642) in case you or your employees have any questions or a suggestion for a topic to be covered in future newsletters.
4. Occasionally, at the end of each newsletter, there will be a short game that helps to remind employees of the importance of checking IDs correctly.

Teen Tobacco Inspectors are Hired Employees

Lately, the Adult Tobacco Inspectors are being asked if the underage teens that are trying to purchase tobacco products are on probation or doing this as some kind of punishment. This cannot be further from the truth. Idaho's Tobacco Teen Inspectors are hired, taxpaying employees who have an interest in the mission of the tobacco project: to prevent the sale of tobacco to minors and reduce early onset smoking amongst their peers. The teens used in Idaho must: complete a training program, be non-smokers, have a passing GPA in High School, not be in any kind of trouble with the law or with their schools, and have the ability to ride in a vehicle for extended periods of time (you know Idaho).

These teens enjoy their job and like that they are reminding tobacco retailers and employees to always ID anyone that looks younger than 27 years old. The teens do NOT want their peers to start smoking and are always happy and excited when retailers consistently and successfully refuse the sale of tobacco to minors.

Physical Barriers

Remember that cigarette products must be displayed behind a counter or in a location where customers do *not* have direct access to them. A physical barrier must exist between the customer and the tobacco products.

Customers are not allowed to handle tobacco products BEFORE purchasing; for example, the clerk cannot hand cigarettes to a customer prior to purchasing and have the customer carry them to a different cashier to pay.

Are You Compliance Check Ready?

Idaho law requires that at least one random compliance check take place per vendor per year plus additional checks based on the non-compliance rate for 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. Sound complicated?

All you need to remember is that each vendor should expect to be inspected at least twice a year by Idaho's inspection teams no sooner than 30 days apart. If the business fails the inspection, the clerk is cited on the spot and the vendor is notified by mail of the violation. If the clerk refuses to sell tobacco to the minor, the minor leaves the establishment without further incident.

Remember that the violation takes place at the point of sale. In other words, the business will fail the inspection at the moment the tobacco is sold to the minor. The clerk or vendor is not allowed to try and retrieve the tobacco, confiscate the minor's ID, or detain the minor in any way. After the minor has left the establishment, the inspector will identify himself/herself and issue the citation.

Commit yourself to preventing the sale of tobacco to minors, and the compliance checks won't be an issue. Fewer non-compliance violations will reduce the number of compliance checks next year. But most importantly, it will reduce the number of Idaho kids who have access to tobacco.

Reminder!

- Minor IDs are vertical NOT horizontal. Anyone under 18 in Idaho will have a **GREEN BOX** that outlines the ID holder's license number, date of birth and ID expiration date. The **GREEN BOX** means automatically that the holder CANNOT purchase tobacco...NO MATH NEEDED! Check out www.preventthesale.com for detailed examples of Idaho's IDs.



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What's inside?

- How to use this Newsletter as a Training Tool
- Teen Tobacco Inspectors
- Physical barriers between tobacco and customer
- Are you Compliance Check Ready?
- Reminders

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES