



Contact us: 208-334-0642

ID Tobacco Project Website: healthandwelfare.idaho.gov
Select the "medical" menu and then "Idaho Tobacco Permits"

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2021 FACTS AND STATS

What was the Compliance Grade after last month's state tobacco inspections?

**Grade A
for
July 2021**

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 minors.

How well did these Permitted Retailers comply with the law in July 2021?

- 115 Permitted Retailers were inspected.*
- 7 Permitted Retailers sold to the inspecting minor.
- The compliance rate for July 2021:

93.91%

SUPER!

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

Preventing The Sale with Age Verification Protocols

The easiest way to prevent underage purchases of tobacco and electronic smoking devices is to have a robust age verification protocol. What should that really include? As Idaho tobacco and electronic smoking device retailers and their staff, ask yourselves these questions:

- Are we consistently and without fail asking for photo ID?
- What forms of photo ID are acceptable at our retail location?
- How should we verify the authenticity of the photo ID?
- Do we have age verification protocols provided to all staff in writing?

With these questions in mind, here are some suggestions on where to begin building your age verification protocols:

Are we consistently and without fail asking for photo ID?

This is probably the most important thing any retailer and their staff can do to ensure the prevention of sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to underage customers.

ASK FOR AND CHECK ID

Federal law requires that you check photo ID of everyone appearing under age 27 who attempts to purchase tobacco and electronic smoking devices and verify with that ID the customer is of legal age to purchase. This is an "each-and-every time" requirement (even if you know the person to be of legal age.) Basically, if you "carded" them yesterday, you must "card" them again today! **Helpful hint:** Remember that a person's weight and height, or use of apparel such as hats or glasses, may cause customers to appear older than they are.

What forms of photo ID are acceptable?

Besides a state-issued driver's license, are other forms of ID acceptable (e.g., federally recognized tribal-issued photo ID, foreign government-issued passport, Canadian provincial issued ID, US Citizenship and Immigration Service Employment Authorization Cards?) At a minimum, we recommend all photo ID be government issued, not expired, display the bearer's photo, and display the bearer's date of birth.

How should we verify the authenticity of the photo ID?

There are several things a retailer and their staff can do to verify the authenticity of a photo ID?

- Check ID for signs it is a fake or invalid. Check out last month's newsletter ([July 2021](#)) provided a great review on the elements to spotting and handling suspected fake IDs.
- Use a Point-of-Sale (POS) assistance tools and technologies, such as:
 - ▶ Stand-Alone Age Calculator Systems. These can be a great cost-effective tool to verify customer age. The FDA has developed a free smart phone Age Calculator App retailers might find useful. This App can be accessed through your smart phone's app store or from the [FDA](#). The App restricts sales to those under 21.
 - ▶ POS Systems integrated into your cash register include systems that:
 - Prompt Clerk to Check ID Only
 - Prompt Clerk to Enter DOB
 - Require Clerks to Scan IDs and May Verify ID authenticityFor more information on these POS system integrations including potential benefits and drawbacks, download [TIPS for Retailers: Preventing Sales to a Minor](#). Or watch the [FDA video presentation](#) on their YouTube channel.
- ▶ Tear away calendars can be a great resource for retailers who don't have access to other more high-tech POS systems. The [FDA's This is Our Watch Exchange Lab](#), provides free materials including tear away calendars to provide all of your checkout locations. Multiple copies can be requested or downloaded free online. Extra copies beyond the set limit can be requested via email.

Do we have age verification protocols provided to all staff in writing?

Don't forget – protocols can't help retail staff if they can't be reviewed often and understood clearly. Be sure your age verification protocols are in writing, and make sure they are used in training and refresher training of all staff, reviewed frequently for necessary changes or updates, and made available for reference by the retail staff at any time.



Need information on the Idaho tobacco law, training and point-of-sale resources, information about what IDs look like, a helpful quiz and game to practice when to refuse the sale of tobacco to a customer, and many other resources tailored to Idaho Tobacco Retailers? Check out our website designed just for Idaho Tobacco Retailers: Preventthesale.com/Idaho



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