



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

Volume 15, Issue 9
September 2015

Contact us: 208-334-0642

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

Facts and Stats

“A” average for August

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 August 2015:

- 245 Vendors were inspected.*
- 23 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- The compliance rate for the month was 90.61%

*Inspections where purchase attempts were made.

Prevent the Sale Website

[Preventthesale.com/
Idaho](http://Preventthesale.com/Idaho)

Our website has updated information and resources!

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

Know What the Law Says

By Cheryl Reed

Idaho Code 39-501

Types of Tobacco Covered by Idaho Code

The law is clear concerning the sale of tobacco products to minors—or persons under the age of 18. But what products are included in this category of “tobacco products?”

The following products are all illegal to sell to minors:

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

Reading Idaho IDs

How do you tell if someone is less than 18 years old? You must check their identification and also understand how to tell whether or not the identification is fake, borrowed, or altered. There are samples on the preventthesale.com website that can help you with this. From the Preventthesale.com homepage, check out section 3 “What the IDs Look Like” for additional information.

State of Idaho drivers’ licenses are printed vertically if a person is under 21. Licenses of persons 21 and older are printed horizontally. Vertical IDs have an “Under 18 (or 21) Until” date listed below the boxed-in text at the right of the photo. “Under 18” IDs are color-coded “green.” Under 21 IDs are color-coded “red.” Simply looking at the ID can tell you if the minor is old enough to purchase tobacco. As yourself:

- Is the ID vertical?
- Is the person standing in front of me, the individual in the photo?
- Is the information box to the right of the photo “green?”
- Is the “Under 18 Until” date still in the future from today’s date?

If you answer “yes” to these questions, the minor is too young to buy tobacco and you should refuse the sale.

Identifying out-of-state, fake, borrowed, or altered IDs

The preventthesale.com website also has examples of identifications from nearby states including Oregon, Utah, Montana, Nevada, Washington, and Wyoming. It's helpful to study these and know how to tell a fraud from an authentic ID.

Some common ways that people commit ID fraud are:

- Borrowing an ID, which is the most common
- Creating a fake ID
- Altering an ID (check for raised spots or shiny spots over the date of birth)

Cardholders who are being deceptive will often show signs, like avoiding eye contact, hesitation answering questions, or nervousness. Remember that if you sell to someone under 18, you can personally be fined \$100.

What about the Minor?

Minors who possess, sell, or distribute tobacco products or electronic cigarettes are punished by fines if caught. A third infraction constitutes a misdemeanor and is punishable by imprisonment in an appropriate facility for no more than thirty days and fined \$300. The court may also require the minor and the minor's parents to attend tobacco awareness programs or perform community service.

However, please note, minors who are participating in legitimate state or federal tobacco inspections are exempt from this possession law. Therefore, it is unlawful to confiscate an inspecting minors ID or otherwise detain or threaten an inspecting minor.



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What's inside?

Idaho Code 39-501

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PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES