

Inspection Teams are Looking for Display Code Violations

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 2006:

- ❖ 124 Vendors were inspected.*
- ❖ 12 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- ❖ The compliance rate for the month of March 2006 was 90%

*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?"

Beware of Display Code Violations

One of the things that inspection teams will be paying stricter attention to this year is violation of the self-service display code. Vendors who do not properly impede access to tobacco are in violation of the code. All tobacco products should be kept from public access and should be blocked by a counter or gate.

Tobacco should not be within reach of customers. So, if you have cigarettes next to a cash register and within reaching distance of customers, you should be aware of this violation and take action now. Self-service merchandising is not legal, as stated in the following code:

Code 5.40.040 Restrictions on self-service sale of tobacco products.

“It is unlawful to sell, permit to be sold, or offer for sale any tobacco product by means of self-service merchandising, or by any means other than a vendor-assisted sale. As used in this section “self-service display” means an open display of tobacco products, which is accessible without the intervention of a vendor, including but not limited to a rack, shelf, or counter-top display. As used in this section “vendor assisted sale” means a purchase requiring a direct, face-to-face exchange between the vendor and the customer, in which the vendor does not transfer possession of the product to the customer until the purchase is completed.” (Ord. 839 § 2 (part), 2003)

How Can we Reward You?

We'd like to hear from retailers about how they'd like to be recognized for multiple successful inspections. We feel like those businesses that have multiple consecutive “no sales,” should be rewarded for their outstanding success.

Please give us your ideas at tobaccopermits.com and select “contact us.” We need your ideas!

Why, How, and How Many?

The Center for Disease Control puts out fact sheets each year that lists some interesting statistics for America's youth. As tobacco vendors, your part in preventing the sale of tobacco to youth is clear: without the accessibility and availability of tobacco products, youths are less likely to smoke. Here's the fact sheet for 2005:

Why do kids use tobacco?

- Low socioeconomic status
- Use and approval of tobacco use by peers or siblings
- Smoking by parents or guardians
- **Accessibility**
- **Availability and price of tobacco products**
- A perception that tobacco use is normative
- Lack of parental support or involvement,
- Low levels of academic

- achievement,
- Lack of skills to resist influences to tobacco use
- Lower self-image or self-esteem,
- Belief in functional benefits of tobacco use
- Lack of self-efficacy to refuse offers of tobacco.

Tobacco use in adolescence is associated with many other health risk behaviors, including higher risk sexual behavior and use of alcohol or other drugs.

How many kids smoke?

- 22 percent of high school students in the United States are current cigarette smokers—21.9 percent of females and 21.8 percent of males.
- Twenty-five percent of whites, 18 percent of Hispanics, and 15 percent of African Americans in high school are current cigarette smokers.
- Eight percent of middle school students in this country are current cigarette smokers, with estimates slightly higher for females (9 percent) than males (8 percent).
- Nine percent of whites, 10 percent of Hispanics, 8 percent of African Americans, and 3 percent of Asian Americans in middle school are current cigarette smokers

- Each day, approximately 3,900 young people between the ages of 12 and 17 years initiate cigarette smoking in the United States. In this age group, each day an estimated 1,500 young people become daily cigarette smokers in this country.

What other types of tobacco do kids use?

- Thirteen percent of high school students are current cigar smokers, with estimates higher for males (18 percent) than for females (8 percent). Nationally, an estimated 5 percent of all middle school students are current cigar smokers, with estimates of 7 percent for males and 4 percent for females.
- An estimated 10 percent of males in high school are current smokeless tobacco users, as are an estimated 4 percent of males in middle school.
- An estimated 3 percent of high school students are current users of *bidis; bidi use is more common among males (4 percent) than females (2 percent). An estimated 2 percent of middle school students are bidi users, with estimates of 3 percent for males and 2 percent for females.

*Bidi cigarettes are handrolled tendu leaves containing low-grade tobacco and tied up with string.

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What's Inside:

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