

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

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#### Contact IDHW's Idaho Tobacco Project at: 877-641-4468

ID Tobacco Project Website: https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers\*

\*Scroll down to the topic "Retailers" then select "Idaho Tobacco Project."

#### **FACTS AND STATS**

What was the Compliance Grade for November 2024 state tobacco and electronic smoking device inspections?

# Grade A-

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 customers under the age of 21.

How well did these Permitted Retailers comply with the law in November 2024?

- 240 Permitted Retailers were inspected. \*
- 32 Permitted Retailers sold to the underage inspector.
- The compliance rate for November 2024 was:

91.25% GOOD JOB!

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

# Wrapping Up 2024:

# Milestones, Enforcement, and Renewal Reminders

# **Progress in Protecting Youth from Tobacco Use**

The FDA's latest 2024 National Youth Tobacco Survey shows significant progress: youth tobacco use has reached its lowest levels since tracking began 25 years ago. Cigarette smoking among youth is at a historic low, and e-cigarette use has dropped to the lowest levels in a decade.

Dr. Brian King, Director of FDA's Center for Tobacco Products, credits these achievements to coordinated efforts at national, state, and local levels, alongside robust FDA actions. Key initiatives include raising the minimum age for tobacco sales to 21, rejecting marketing applications for youth-targeted e-cigarettes, and educating the public through campaigns like "The Real Cost," which prevents youth tobacco use and saves billions in health costs.

Idaho and the FDA remain committed to protecting youth from tobaccorelated harm and ensuring a healthier future. Read the <u>full article</u> from Dr. King for details on the FDA's comprehensive strategy to combat youth tobacco use. (Source: Dr. Brian King, Director of FDA's Center for Tobacco Products)

# **FDA Cracks Down on Unauthorized E-Cigarettes**

The FDA recently issued warning letters to 115 brick-and-mortar retailers for selling unauthorized disposable e-cigarettes, including brands like Geek Bar and Elf Bar. These products, often appealing to youth, violate the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

The enforcement, supported by state partnerships, follows findings from the 2024 National Youth Tobacco Survey, which revealed Geek Bar as a popular choice among 5.8% of youth e-cigarette users. Retailers have 15 days to respond and correct violations or face stricter actions like fines or product seizures.

To date, the FDA has authorized only 34 e-cigarette products for legal sale. For more information and see how your retail location can stay in compliance, visit the <u>FDA's Searchable Tobacco Products Database</u>. (Source: FDA's Center for Tobacco Products)

## **DID YOU RENEW YOUR PERMIT FOR 2025?**

All 2024 Idaho Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Device Permits have an expiration date of **December 31, 2024**. If you haven't already, be certain to **renew your permit for 2025 before it is too late.** Permit renewals can be completed online for **free** on the Idaho Tobacco Project (ITP) website - <u>TobaccoPermits.com/Idaho</u>.

# Need help renewing?

We are here to help! Have any technical difficulties, questions, want help renewing, or need a copy of your permit? There are two ways to reach us:

- Send us an email through the "Contact Us" link on the ITP homepage.
- ► Call the ITP message hotline at 877-641-4468. Listen to the message options and then leave us a detailed message. Your call will be returned in the order it was received. Most calls are returned within 2 business days.

### **Renewal Reminders**

- ▶ Permits are Not Transferrable. Remember that if you sell your retail location, your permit is NOT transferrable. The new owner must get their own Idaho issued permit.
- No Sales from Vending Machines. It is illegal to sell tobacco and/or electronic smoking devices from a vending machine in Idaho.
- ► Temporary Permits are not allowed. Permits for temporary markets, community events, fairs, tasting events, and mobile businesses are not allowed.

## No longer need a permit?

Email us using the "Contact Us" feature on the homepage. In your email, be sure to indicate why you no longer need a permit. These reasons include Change of Ownership; No longer selling tobacco or electronic smoking devices; On an Indian Reservation; Out of Business; or provide us with another explanation.

### Prevent-The-Sale!

Idaho Tobacco Retailers have two resources for Prevent-The-Sale content: Visit Idaho's Department of Health and Welfare's official <u>Idaho Tobacco Project-Prevent The Sale</u> webpage for statewide information.

Visit Idaho Tobacco Projects interactive website <u>Preventhesale.com</u> for interactive and evolving content, including newsletter archives, information on IDs, and downloadable resources and documents.



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#### What's inside?

- · Progress in Protecting Youth from Tobacco Use
- · FDA Crack Down on Unauthorized E-Cigarettes
- Did You Renew Your Permit for 2025?
- · Prevent-The-Sale Resources

### PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES