

# The Responsible Connecticut Retailer

November 17, 2022 | Issue 14

## Keeping You In The Know

### The Great American Smokeout



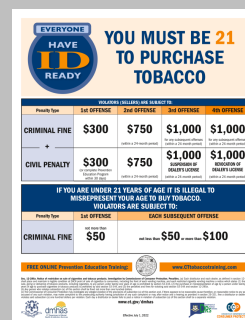
Today – **November 17, 2022** – is the [Great American Smokeout](#). Thousands of people across the country who smoke, vape, or use other tobacco products will make today **Day One** on their journey towards living healthier, tobacco-free and vape-free lives. The [American Cancer Society](#) and the [Connecticut QUITLINE](#) offer free resources and support to help individuals take this first step. As a tobacco and/or e-cigarette retailer, you can participate in this event by checking the photo IDs of everyone who purchases tobacco products and e-cigarettes, not only today but every day. What you do matters!

### Statewide Compliance Inspections Are Underway

The [Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services'](#) (DMHAS) [Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program](#) (TPEP) carry out statewide compliance inspections to ensure retailers follow Connecticut's tobacco 21 law and do not sell tobacco products and e-cigarettes to customers under 21 years of age. TPEP staff conduct in-person inspections across the state, during which they monitor the sales of cigarettes, other tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vapor products, and cigars. Be a responsible member of the community. Avoid fines and penalties. Verify your customers' photo ID and never sell to a person under 21. What you do matters.

### New Tobacco Notice of Law Sign

The [Tobacco Merchant & Community Education Steering Committee](#) mailed to tobacco retailers an updated Tobacco Notice of Law sign in August 2022. The updated sign informs retailers and customers that **EVERYONE** who buys cigarettes or other tobacco products must present a valid form of photo ID in order to complete the sale. Retailers are required by law to post the sign in their store in an area that is visible to customers. Signs are available in English and Spanish. For additional signs, please contact [Connecticut Clearinghouse](#) at 1.800.232.4424 or [info@ctclearinghouse.org](mailto:info@ctclearinghouse.org).



### Checking Connecticut Drivers' Licenses: A Helpful Tip

Retailers can make a preliminary verification of age by looking at the orientation of the customer's driver's license (vertical vs. horizontal) when selling tobacco products and/or e-cigarettes.



**A vertical driver's license** means that the customer is under 21 years old – or was under 21 years old when the license was issued. Retailers should still check that the photo matches the customer and that the date of birth places the customer under 21 years of age. If the customer is under 21, do not sell tobacco products or e-cigarettes to them.



**A horizontal driver's license** means the customer is 21 years old or older. However, retailers should still check to make sure the person buying tobacco products or e-cigarettes matches the picture on the license – that he/she is the owner of the license and is not using someone else's ID. If the person matches the photo on the license and there is no evidence of tampering, then the retailer can safely make the sale.

## FDA Resources and Tools

### Free FDA Trainings

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products offers a series of webinars on federal tobacco regulations to provide compliance education and information to retailers. For the latest webinars, visit their website: [FDA Tobacco Compliance Webinars | FDA](#).

## Updates to Connecticut Tobacco & E-Cigarette Training

The [Tobacco Merchant & Community Education Steering Committee](#) has updated the online training, [Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Sales: Do the Right Thing](#). The online training educates retailers and their employees about the laws that govern the sale of cigarettes, other tobacco products, e-cigarettes, and vapor products in Connecticut. The training updates include information on the new Connecticut law that requires retailers to check and verify the photo ID of **EVERYONE** who buys cigarettes and other tobacco products. The training also features strategies for dealing with challenging customers. Retailers can view the updated video sections here: [CT Tobacco & E-cigarette Laws](#) and [Checking ID & Making the Sale](#).

### Take the free online training today!

The training has been updated to include information about the new Connecticut law that requires retailers to check and verify the photo ID of EVERYONE who buys cigarettes and/or other tobacco products.

Visit [CTtobaccotraining.com](#)



## Contact Us

For any questions or new notice sign requests, click [here](#) to contact us or call 1-800-232-4424.

## Tobacco Merchant & Community Education Steering Committee Meeting

Please join us at our next meeting!

### TMCE Meeting

#### LOCATION

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87905186194>

#### DATE AND TIME

02/07/23 1:00pm-02/07/23 2:30pm



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!**

