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The Responsible Connecticut Retailer Newsletter

April 2, 2025 / Issue #22

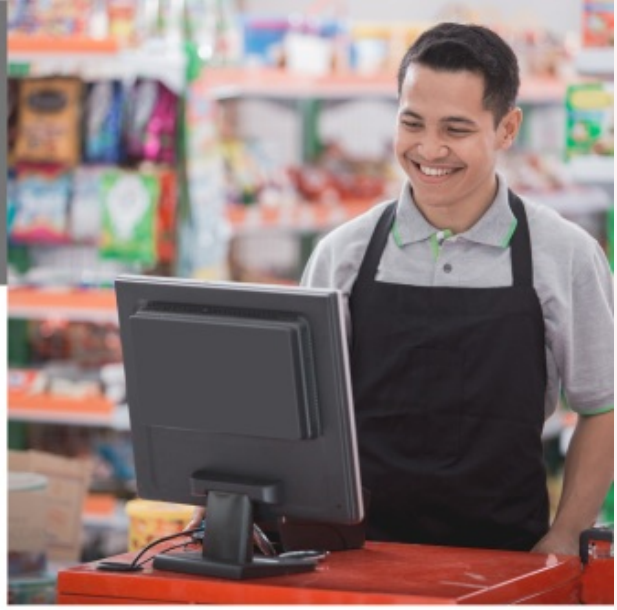
Have Your Voice Heard and Make an Impact

The Tobacco Merchant & Community Education Steering Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Zoom. This is an opportunity for retailers, state agencies, and prevention professionals to talk about ongoing compliance with new or existing tobacco and e-cigarette laws in Connecticut. Here is the meeting link: **https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83382819479**

New Steering Committee Flyer

The Tobacco Merchant & Community Education Steering Committee has created a flyer that describes how they support retailers and help them comply with Connecticut's Tobacco 21 laws. The flyer features links to essential resources such as the online training, tip sheets, and resources in English and Spanish. The flyer is available below.

Tobacco Merchant & Community Education Steering Committee



Who We Are

- We are a statewide committee of tobacco and e-cigarette retailers, state agency partners, prevention professionals, and local coalitions.
- Our goal is to reduce the sale of tobacco and electronic cigarette/ vapor products to youth under 21 through retailer education, awareness campaigns, and compliance inspections.

How We Help Retailers

Free Online Training for Retailers and Staff

- Learn more about Connecticut's tobacco and e-cigarette laws and how to comply with them.
- Take the training here: CTtobaccotraining.com

Order Materials

- Choose from a number of retailer education materials and tip sheets in both English and Spanish to download or get sent to your store directly, free of charge.
- View materials here: https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/tobacco-merchant-resources/

Subscribe

- Get the latest information about CT tobacco laws and resources sent to your inbox with the **Responsible Connecticut Retailer (RCR) Newsletter**.
- To subscribe, visit: www.ctclearinghouse.org/email-signup/

Join Us

- Be a partner in reducing youth access to tobacco and nicotine products by participating in the statewide committee.
- To join our next meeting, contact: info@ctclearinghouse.org

Funded by the Connecticut State Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services

Visit our retailer page here

Wheeler | CONNECTICUT Clearinghouse a program of the Connecticut Center for Prevention, Wellness and Recovery

CONNECTICUT Mental Health & Addiction Services

Earth Day 2025 - 4.22.25

Cigarette butts and electronic cigarette waste contain a variety of chemicals and materials that are hazardous to the environment when they are disposed of improperly.

These products can still contain nicotine, lead, and other chemicals after an individual is done using them. These materials can be washed into nearby bodies of water from rain runoff. When local wildlife drink from these bodies of water, or attempt to eat things like cigarette butts, they are poisoned by the chemicals. This can be fatal for the animal, and if it is not fatal, it can cause other problems such as vomiting and seizures.

In addition to chemical hazards, the cigarette and e-cigarettes themselves are detrimental to the environment. These products are made from plastic and are not biodegradable. They can leach microplastics into the environment, which end up in our waterways and food supply.

This Earth Day, we encourage you to partner with your communities and participate in community clean up drives. It is also encouraged to check with your local recycling or waste management facilities for guidance on the safe disposal of cigarettes and e-cigarette materials. Some general guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency can be found **here**.

Take the Free Online Training Today!

Just a reminder that there is a **free online training** called *Tobacco and*

Electronic Cigarette Sales: Do the Right Thing. The training gives store owners, managers, clerks, and the general public **key information about Connecticut's laws around buying and selling cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and other tobacco products.** You can take the training HERE.

Do You Have a New Employee on Staff? Download and Print Our Helpful Tip Sheets Today!

The Tobacco Merchant & Community Education Steering Committee has developed Retailer Tip Sheets in English and Spanish to help clerks, cashiers, and other staff sell tobacco and e-cigarette products responsibly. Click HERE to view, download, and print tips sheets on checking customer IDs; dealing with angry customers; knowing your tobacco products; and knowing your e-cigarette products.

Free Resources for Retailers

The Tobacco Merchant and Community Education (TMCE) Steering Committee develops materials to help retailers comply with Connecticut's tobacco and e-cigarette laws and to let customers know that they must be 21 years old or older to buy tobacco products and e-cigarettes. Materials include State Notice of Law Signs, which retailers are required to post in their stores at the point of sale; postcards, door decals, and cash register/counter stickers, which tell customers to have their IDs ready; and promotional items, including WE ID face masks, WE ID buttons, and pens. All items are pictured below. To order, please contact Connecticut Clearinghouse at 800-232-4424 or info@ctclearinghouse.org.

FDA Tools and Resources

FDA's Digital Age Verification Calendar

The FDA's free digital age verification calendar helps retailers quickly determine if a customer is old enough to legally purchase tobacco and e-cigarette/vape products. The calendar can be programmed to display the exact date a customer must have been born on or before to legally buy tobacco and e-cigarette/vape products. Under Connecticut, the customer must be 21 or older to buy these products. Click **HERE** to order your free digital age verification calendar.

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.**

Connecticut Clearinghouse | [**ctclearinghouse.org**]

Connecticut Clearinghouse | 334 Farmington Avenue | Plainville, CT 06062 US

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