

# The Responsible Connecticut Retailer

November 18, 2021 | Issue 11

## Keeping You In The Know



### Great American Smokeout 2021

Today – November 18, 2021 – is the [Great American Smokeout](#). Thousands of people across the country who smoke or vape will make today **Day One** on their journey towards living healthier, smoke-free and vape-free lives. The [American Cancer Society](#) and the [Connecticut QUITLINE](#) offer 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!](#)

## 2021 Synar Compliance Inspection Results

The [Synar Amendment](#), a federal law, requires states to conduct annual, unannounced compliance inspections of randomly selected tobacco and e-cigarette retail stores to ensure that they are compliant with the Tobacco 21 Law. The Tobacco 21 Law states:

1. Retailers cannot sell tobacco products and/or e-cigarettes to individuals under 21 years old.
2. Retailers must check the photo ID of individuals who appear under 30 years old and are attempting to buy tobacco products and/or e-cigarettes.



**Federal law mandates that states achieve a compliance rate of 80% or higher.** The Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services' [Tobacco Prevention & Enforcement Program \(TPEP\)](#) conducted Synar inspections in our state between July 1, 2021 and September 30, 2021. They found that **59% of retailers were compliant** with the law and **41% of retailers were non-compliant**. TPEP attributes the high non-compliance rate to multiple factors, including the onset of COVID-19 shortly after the law went into effect, customers wearing face masks, and the inclusion of e-cigarette retailers in the 2021 inspections. TPEP provides retailers with resources to help them achieve compliance, including an [online training](#) that explains the Tobacco 21 Law, Notice of Law signs, "Under 30? We ID" door decals and cash register stickers, and promotional items (e.g., We ID face masks, We ID buttons, and pens). Retailers can visit the [Tobacco Merchant Information](#) webpage to learn more or call [Connecticut Clearinghouse](#) at 1.800.232.4424 to order materials.



Nancy Navarretta, MA, LPC, NCC, the Acting Commissioner for Connecticut's [Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#), has written an op-ed on tobacco and e-cigarette use in Connecticut for [CTNewsJunkie.com](#). CTNewsJunkie.com is a Connecticut news site that features professional, original reporting on state politics, public policy, the courts, and health care. Click [here](#) to read the op-ed.

## Tips For Safe Disposal of E-Cigarettes and E-Liquid Waste

**True or False:** E-cigarettes, including rechargeable batteries and the cartridges and bottles that contain e-liquids (liquid nicotine mixtures), can pose a threat to human health and to the environment if they are not disposed of properly. **The answer is TRUE!** Nicotine, including nicotine salt, is listed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an acute hazardous waste. Discarded or neglected vaping products may contain harmful substances, including unused e-liquid. Improper storage and disposal of these items may lead to unintentional exposure and accidental nicotine poisoning. Poison control centers receive thousands of calls per year about exposures to e-liquid, which can be fatal to small children involved in accidental exposures.



Improper disposal of e-cigarettes and e-liquid products can also hurt the environment. If thrown in the trash or flushed into the sewer system, the nicotine solution in an e-liquid product can seep into the ground or water and become a danger for wildlife and humans. As e-cigarette batteries degrade, the compounds in them can also seep into nearby water. Additionally, lithium ion batteries have been linked to explosions in recycling trucks when batteries are not properly disposed of. E-cigarette and e-liquid waste should not be thrown in the regular trash or flushed down a sink. Instead, these items should be taken safely to a hazardous waste facility. Please remind your customers about proper disposal of these products. The FDA offers free posters that show how to safely dispose of e-cigarettes. You can order posters [here](#).

## FDA Resources and Tools

### Free Digital Calendars For Age Verification

The FDA offers free digital age verification calendars for retailers to help determine if a customer is old enough to legally purchase tobacco products and e-cigarettes. Click [here](#) to order your free calendar.

## Public Service Announcements: News You Can Use



[Connecticut Tobacco 21 Law PSA](#) - The



[Tobacco 21 and COVID-19 PSA](#) - The law

law prohibits retailers from selling any tobacco product, electronic cigarette or vapor product to customers under 21 years of age. Retailers must ask for photo IDs from all customers under 30 years of age. Fines and penalties have increased. A summary of the law can be found here: [Public Act 19-13](#).

has not changed. Customers must be at least 21 years old to purchase any tobacco product, electronic cigarette, or vapor product. Retailers must check photo IDs of customers under 30 years of age. Stay safe during the pandemic. Protect yourself, your employees and your business. Ask all customers for their photo IDs during this difficult time.

## Connecticut Tobacco & E-Cigarette Training

Take the free online training today!  
Visit [CTtobaccotraining.com](http://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

#### DATE AND TIME

01/11/22 1:00pm-01/11/22 2:30pm



Connecticut Clearinghouse | [\[ctclearinghouse.org\]](http://ctclearinghouse.org)