

The Responsible Connecticut Retailer Newsletter

March 15, 2024 | Issue 17

Retailer Compliance Inspections: Changes to Notification Process

The [Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program](#) (TPEP) conducts inspections to make sure retailers do not sell tobacco or e-cigarette products to anyone under the age of 21. Written notifications are mailed out to retailers when an inspection occurred.

Starting this Fall, store owners will receive these written notifications through email instead of U.S. mail. The information provided will remain the same; only the delivery method will change.

To ensure you receive your inspection notifications, please add the following email address <DoNotReply@mi-corporation.com> to your contacts.

If you have any questions, please reach out to TPEP at Tobacco.prevention@ct.gov.

Retailer Survey: *Your Feedback is Needed*

[The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) (DMHAS) is conducting an online survey of tobacco and e-cigarette/vape retailers across the state. The survey is anonymous, and your participation is voluntary. Your input will help DMHAS develop training and educational materials for retailers and customers around tobacco and e-cigarette laws.

Please take the survey [HERE](#). Your input matters!

Questions about the survey or tobacco policies can be submitted

Spotlight on Nicotine: What Retailers Need to Know

What is nicotine?

Nicotine is a powerful drug found in the tobacco plant.

Do all tobacco products and e-cigarettes/vapes contain nicotine?

Yes, all tobacco products have nicotine in them, including cigarettes, non-combusted cigarettes (commonly referred to as “heat-not-burn tobacco products” or “heated tobacco products”), cigars, smokeless tobacco (such as dip, snuff, snus, and chewing tobacco), and hookah tobacco. Most e-cigarettes/vapes also contain nicotine.

Is nicotine addictive?

Yes, nicotine is very addictive. It can change how a person’s brain works. Nicotine causes the brain to crave a drug that is harmful to the human body. It is the nicotine in tobacco products and e-cigarettes/vapes that causes a person to keep using the products – even when they know it is harmful – even when they want to stop.

How does nicotine harm someone’s body?

Nicotine increases a person’s heart rate and blood pressure, which can lead to heart disease or stroke. Nicotine affects insulin levels, which can create health issues for people with diabetes.

In addition, an individual who continues to smoke or vape because they are addicted to nicotine will be at greater risk for developing cancer, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, and stroke.

What can retailers do?

Retailers can prevent teens and young adults from becoming addicted to nicotine by following the law, i.e., refuse to sell tobacco products and e-cigarettes/vapes to them. Teenagers and young adults have a higher risk of becoming addicted to nicotine because their brains are still developing.

Teach your clerks to ask for and check the photo ID of customers who want to buy tobacco products or e-cigarettes/vapes. Tell your staff to make sure:

- The photo ID is a driver’s license, state-issued ID, or passport;
- The photo on the ID matches the person in front of them;
- The date of birth proves that the individual is over 21 years old; and
- The photo ID hasn’t expired.

If you or your staff need more information or support, take our [free, online training](#) or visit [our website](#) to request materials.

Thank you for doing the right thing.

Free Materials

The Tobacco Merchant & Community Education Steering Committee has signs and other materials available to help retailers tell customers to have their IDs ready when buying tobacco products and e-cigarettes.

If you would like to order any of the items below, contact Connecticut Clearinghouse at info@ctclearinghouse.org.



TODOS
TENGA PREPARADA SU IDENTIFICACIÓN

PARA COMPRAR TABACO DEBE SER MAYOR DE 21 AÑOS

Tipos de sanción	1.ª INFRACCIÓN	2.ª INFRACCIÓN	3.ª INFRACCIÓN	4.ª INFRACCIÓN
MULTA PENAL	\$300	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000
SANCIÓN CIVIL	\$300	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000

SI ES MENOR DE 21 AÑOS ES LEGAL MENTIR SOBRE SU EDAD PARA COMPRAR TABACO. QUIENES VIOLAN LA LEY ESTÁN SUJETOS A:

Tipos de sanción	1.ª INFRACCIÓN	CADA INFRACCIÓN SUBSIGUIENTE
MULTA PENAL	\$50	de \$50. a \$100

Para obtener más información de educación preventiva visite la página web: www.ct.gov/dhmas

EVERYONE
HAVE ID READY

YOU MUST BE 21 TO PURCHASE TOBACCO

Priority Type	1st OFFENSE	2nd OFFENSE	3rd OFFENSE	4th OFFENSE
CRIMINAL FINE	\$300	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000
CIVIL PENALTY	\$300	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000

IF YOU ARE UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE IT IS ILLEGAL TO MISREPRESENT YOUR AGE TO BUY TOBACCO. VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO:

Priority Type	1st OFFENSE	EACH SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE
CRIMINAL FINE	\$50	not more than \$50 or more than \$100

FREE ONLINE Prevention Education Training: www.CTtobaccoctclearinghouse.com

UNDER 30/8
HAVE ID READY

YOU MUST BE 21 TO PURCHASE ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE PRODUCTS (E-CIGARETTES/VAPOR PRODUCTS)

Priority Type	1st OFFENSE	2nd OFFENSE	3rd OFFENSE	4th OFFENSE
CRIMINAL FINE	\$300	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000
CIVIL PENALTY	\$300	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000

IF YOU ARE UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE IT IS ILLEGAL TO MISREPRESENT YOUR AGE TO BUY ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE PRODUCTS. VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO:

Priority Type	1st OFFENSE	EACH SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE
CRIMINAL FINE	\$50	not more than \$50 or more than \$100

FREE ONLINE Prevention Education Training: www.CTtobaccoctclearinghouse.com

LES MENOR DE 30/8
TENGA PREPARADA SU IDENTIFICACIÓN

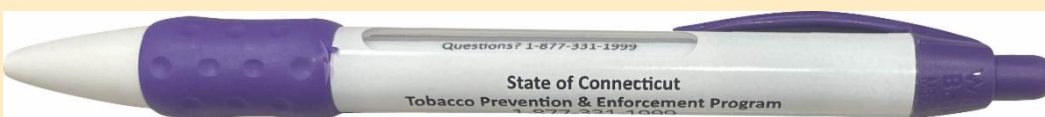
PARA COMPRAR PRODUCTOS DE CIGARRILLOS ELECTRÓNICOS DEBE SER MAYOR DE 21 AÑOS (CIGARRILLOS ELECTRÓNICOS/ PRODUCTOS DE VAPEO)

Tipos de sanción	1.ª INFRACCIÓN	2.ª INFRACCIÓN	3.ª INFRACCIÓN	4.ª INFRACCIÓN
MULTA PENAL	\$300	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000
SANCIÓN CIVIL	\$300	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000

SI ES MENOR DE 21 AÑOS ES LEGAL MENTIR SOBRE SU EDAD PARA COMPRAR QUIENES VIOLAN LA LEY ESTÁN SUJETOS A:

Tipos de sanción	1.ª INFRACCIÓN	CADA INFRACCIÓN SUBSIGUIENTE
MULTA PENAL	\$50	de \$50. a \$100

Para obtener más información de educación preventiva visite la página web: www.ct.gov/dhmas



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](#).

Contact Us

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

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](#).

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.

Have Your Voice Heard and Make an Impact

Join other retailers and state partners for the next meeting of the Tobacco Merchant & Community Education Steering Committee on
April 16, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The meeting will occur on Zoom. Here is the meeting link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81340897633>

Tobacco Merchant & Community Education Steering Committee Meeting

LOCATION

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81340897633>

DATE AND TIME

04/16/24 1:00pm-04/16/24 2:30pm

