

The Responsible Connecticut Retailer

March 20, 2022 | Issue 12

Keeping You In The Know

Statewide Inspections Are In Full Swing! Details and Updated Materials Included in New Mailing!

Tobacco and e-cigarette retailers will receive in the next few weeks a letter and updated materials from Connecticut's [Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program \(TPEP\)](#), a program of the [Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#). The letter alerts merchants that state inspections are in full swing and that their stores will be visited by inspectors soon. It also includes redesigned tobacco and e-cigarette Notice of Law signs and cash register stickers. **Retailers are required by law to post the Notice of Law signs in their stores**, so that they are visible to employees and customers. The signs feature a QR code, which takes readers to the online training, [Tobacco & E-cigarette Sales: Do The Right Thing](#). The training educates individuals about Connecticut's Tobacco 21 law. The new cash register stickers reinforce the message that it is illegal for individuals under 21 years old to purchase tobacco products and e-cigarettes. Merchants should post the new signs and stickers as soon as they receive them.

The image shows a Notice of Law sign and a corresponding penalty table. The sign features a 'HAVE ID READY' logo and the text 'YOU MUST BE 21 TO PURCHASE TOBACCO' and 'YOU MUST BE 21 TO PURCHASE ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE PRODUCTS (E-CIGARETTES/VAPOR PRODUCTS)'. Below the sign is a table detailing penalties for violations.

Penalty 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:

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

Tobacco and e-cigarette **Notice of Law signs** must be posted in stores and visible to employees and customers.

The image shows two cash register stickers. Each sticker features the text 'Tobacco/E-Cigarettes' at the top, followed by 'You must be' and a large '21' inside a blue outline of the state of Connecticut. Below the '21' is the text 'It's the Law'. At the bottom, it says 'State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program www.ct.gov/dmhas'.

Cash register stickers remind employees and customers that individuals must be 21 or older to purchase tobacco products and e-cigarettes.

Today is the first day of spring. In a few weeks, the trees will unfurl their leaves and flowers will be in full bloom. Springtime is a time of rebirth, for nature and people alike. Many individuals will adopt new habits that promote health and well-being. As a tobacco or e-cigarette retailer, you can support your community's commitment to wellness by not selling tobacco products or e-cigarettes to people under 21 years of age. Always check the IDs of everyone who appears under 30 years old. **Remember: what you do matters.**



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 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](#).



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



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/88423524604>

DATE AND TIME

07/12/22 1:00pm-07/12/22 2:30pm



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