

Tobacco Retail License Bulletin



This email is also available in other languages: [Español \(Spanish\)](#), [한국어 \(Korean\)](#), [Русский \(Russian\)](#), [简体中文 \(Chinese\)](#), [عرب \(Arabic\)](#), [Tiếng Việt \(Vietnamese\)](#), [हिन्दी \(Hindi\)](#), and [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ \(Punjabi\)](#).

How to Read an Oregon ID

The Tobacco Retail License (TRL) program updated the [How to Read an Oregon ID handout](#) which can be found on the [TRL website](#). This updated document reflects the federal changes that took effect in May 2025, with some customers now using REAL IDs as well as older issued IDs. This is a great opportunity for owners and managers to provide refresher training to employees on how to check IDs. You can use the updated [How to Read an Oregon ID handout](#) as a resource.

Public Health Division
Tobacco Retail License Program

 OREGON
HEALTH
AUTHORITY

How to Read an Oregon ID

In Oregon, it is against the law to sell tobacco products, e-cigarettes and vaping products to anyone younger than 21.

You can accept any one of these photo ID as their proof of age:

1. A passport or passport card issued by the United States or a foreign government.
2. A driver license issued by a U.S. state.
3. An ID card issued by a U.S. state.
4. An ID issued by a U.S. federally recognized Tribe.
5. A U.S. military ID card.
6. Any other ID card issued by a U.S. state or territory that has all of these:
 - Their picture
 - Their name
 - Their date of birth, and
 - A physical description of them.

How to check under 21 ID

An Oregon driver license and an Oregon ID card include the dates the person turns age 18 and 21. The dates are inside a red box on the right side of the card. Cards issued to those under 21 are in a vertical format.

The Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicles (DMV) issue both an Oregon Driver License and an Oregon ID Card, which look similar.

Do not rush or allow someone to pressure you when you check the ID. Carefully check it to comply with the law. You cannot just ask for their date of birth. You must always check the ID. If you are unsure if the ID is valid, you can refuse the sale.

Other formats and languages

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact the Tobacco Retail License Program at tobacco.inspections@odhsosha.oregon.gov or 971-673-2283 (voice). We accept all relay calls.

100-224408_0106 6480 (11/2025)

Did you know that your tobacco inspector may be from your local community?

Tobacco inspections are often completed by local inspectors. If you live in Benton, Clatsop, Klamath, or Multnomah County, tobacco retail inspections are completed by local programs that existed before statewide tobacco retail licensing laws passed in the Oregon State Legislature.



The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) also works with inspectors from local county programs to complete inspections for statewide tobacco retail license laws in their communities. The OHA and local programs coordinate regularly to ensure inspections are done consistently across the state. If you operate a business in Coos, Curry, Douglas, Josephine, or Umatilla County, inspections are completed by local inspectors. We heard from two local inspectors who shared the following:

“Working as a local inspector helps with building relationships with retailers...It’s easier to reach the owners and managers at the local level, and I can give a more personalized approach to enforcement.”

“We have built a rapport with our retailers, and by providing resources and educational materials, we have been able to reduce the percentage of Minimum Legal Sales Age inspection failures from about 40% in 2024 to 13% in 2025 during our regular inspections. Through this process, the retailers now recognize us and feel comfortable to use us as a resource.”

Having inspections completed at the local level has many benefits including:

- Local inspectors know the specific needs of the county they live and work in, making it easier to build rapport with local retailers.
- Inspectors who work at the local level share they receive questions from retailers in their community, and they have become a consistent source of education and resources to help retailers stay in compliance.
- Local programs share the notable decrease in their retail violation rate leading to far less sales to people under the age of 21. Great work, retailers! This is a point of pride for local communities.

OHA welcomes Columbia, Lincoln, Morrow, and Gilliam County who will be completing local inspections along with OHA starting in July of this year.

Labeling requirements

When selling Inhalant Delivery Systems (IDS) also known as e-cigarettes, refer to [OAR 333-015-0310](#) that describes labeling requirements for liquid nicotine containers. Inspectors look for labeling requirements as a part of OHAs compliance inspections that are completed each year. The picture below is an example of a product seen in some retail locations in recent months. This product does not meet the rule [OAR 333-015-0310](#). Please refer to this rule in preparation for upcoming compliance inspections.



Resources for retailers:

- [Best Practices Guide for Retailers](#) (available in [Spanish](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#), [Chinese](#), [Arabic](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Hindi](#), and [Punjabi](#))
- [Tobacco Retail Licensing training manual for retailers](#)
- [Required tobacco sales signage](#) (available in [Spanish](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#), [Chinese](#), [Arabic](#), and [Vietnamese](#))
- [Instructions for reading Oregon IDs](#) (available in [Spanish](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#), [Chinese](#), [Arabic](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Hindi](#), and [Punjabi](#))
- [Recorded webinar training](#) on Tobacco Retail Licensing
- Child-resistant packaging requirements (available in [Spanish](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#), [Chinese](#), [Arabic](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Hindi](#), and [Punjabi](#))

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