

Don't Sell Tobacco to Minors: What Retailers Need to Know

This podcast is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. CDC – safer, healthier people.

Don't let minors buy tobacco; it's the law.

Retailers are breaking the chain of tobacco addiction among America's youth by following the law and refusing to sell tobacco to minors. Under new federal law, retailers cannot sell cigarettes or smokeless tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18.

FDA requires retailers to verify the age of anyone under 27. Some people look younger than they really are, while others look older than they are. As a retailer, use your best judgment to protect yourself and your customers – *particularly* your underage customers. For example, if you're not sure whether someone is older than 18, and you can't tell whether he or she is 27, you should ask for a photo ID and check the date of birth. This takes the guesswork out of the transaction.

Federal law sets the minimum age requirement at 18, however states may have a more stringent requirement. To make sure you're in compliance, check with your state.

For more information on new tobacco federal regulations and how you can break the chain of tobacco addiction, visit www.fda.gov/breakthechain or follow us on Twitter at FDATobacco. If you have questions about the new regulations, please contact the FDA Center for Tobacco Products Call Center at 1-877-287-1373 or e-mail us at askctp@fda.hhs.gov.

There will be additional podcasts that provide more detail about the new federal tobacco regulations. Subscribe to this series or check back often for updates.

Thank you for working with the FDA and your state to break the chain of tobacco addiction among America's youth. Keep tobacco out of their hands. It's the law and the right thing to do.

For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO, 24/7.