

# License to Sell Tobacco Now Required in Oregon

## Tobacco Retail License Information and Support for Businesses

Starting on January 1, 2022, any retailer selling tobacco in Oregon must have a license to sell tobacco and inhalant delivery system (IDS) products.

### TOBACCO RETAIL LICENSES PROTECT YOUTH

#### Commercial tobacco<sup>1</sup> use among young people is on the rise in Oregon ...

It's too easy for kids in Oregon to get tobacco and IDS products. In 2019, one in six tobacco retailers inspected by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) sold tobacco products illegally to people under 21.

#### ... and a tobacco retail license law can help.

Tobacco retail licensing holds all retailers to the same standards. It lets the state track where tobacco is being sold to help educate retailers and enforce the law. It also makes it easier for retail owners and staff to follow all tobacco laws in Oregon through better communication and training about tobacco sales laws.

### WHAT THE LICENSE COVERS

**Products:** A tobacco retail license is required to sell any tobacco or inhalant delivery system (IDS) product, such as cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes and vape products, and any other item designed for the consumption, use or preparation of tobacco products.

**Retailers:** Anyone who sells tobacco products directly to consumers — including retail stores, cigar and hookah lounges, and bars — is considered a tobacco retailer and must have a tobacco retail license to continue selling tobacco. The license must be posted in a location visible to customers. The new law does not apply to retailers on tribal lands. It also does not apply to Oregon Liquor Control Commission licensed marijuana retailers or OHA licensed marijuana dispensaries that do not sell IDS products that contain nicotine.

Counties that already had a local tobacco retail license program may continue to enforce their local license. You can find a list of local program websites on the Oregon Department of Revenue's [Statewide Tobacco Retail License website](#).

The statewide tobacco retail license is regulated in partnership between the Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR) and OHA.

- DOR administers tobacco and cigarette taxes, issues licenses, collects fees, enforces licensing requirements, and suspends or revokes licenses if needed.
- OHA educates retailers on tobacco sales laws, conducts compliance checks, and issues penalties for violations of tobacco sales laws.

## REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES FOR RETAILERS

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Retailers can apply for a Tobacco Retail License by visiting the Department of Revenue's [Statewide Tobacco Retail License webpage](#).

**Cost:** Retailers will pay an annual fee of \$953. Retailers with multiple locations will need a license for each one. The license fee covers the actual costs of administering the program.

### January 1–June 30, 2022: OHA education visits

- Starting January 1, 2022, DOR will begin checking that retailers have a current tobacco retail license as part of their regular compliance visits. Penalties will be issued for retailers who do not have a license. Visit DOR's [Statewide Tobacco Retail License webpage](#) for more information.
- From January 1–June 30, 2022, OHA and Local Public Health Authorities will conduct outreach and education visits to retailers. During this six-month educational period, OHA will not issue penalties.

### July 1, 2022: OHA enforcement begins

In addition to DOR inspections, OHA or a Local Public Health Authority will begin making two compliance checks a year to:

- Make sure retailers are not selling to people under 21.
- Make sure retailers are in compliance with all tobacco retail sales laws.

Visit [www.healthoregon.org/tobaccoretailsales](http://www.healthoregon.org/tobaccoretailsales) for information on DOR penalties for not having a license and OHA penalties for failing to comply with tobacco sales laws.

### Not sure how to get into compliance? Resources are available!

DOR, OHA and Local Public Health Authorities are available to help retailers understand and comply with the law. OHA provides the following resources for free:

- A tobacco retail license training manual for retailers.
- Answers to frequently asked questions about the new law in multiple languages.
- Educational visits and support from state program staff.
- Updates when laws change.
- Access to state program staff for answers to questions.

**To learn more about these resources, visit [www.healthoregon.org/tobaccoretailsales](http://www.healthoregon.org/tobaccoretailsales).**

If you would like to learn more about tobacco prevention and how you can get involved, visit [SmokefreeOregon.com](http://SmokefreeOregon.com).