

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

News You Can Use

NEW TOBACCO CONTROL LAW REGARDING SELF-SERVICE DISPLAYS AT RETAIL STORES BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2005

Purpose

The purpose of this Bulletin is to notify tobacco retailers in the unincorporated areas of Sacramento County of a new law banning self-service display of all tobacco products at retail stores.

Issue

Recent surveys have shown that tobacco sales to minors have increased. Senate Bill 1173 (Ortiz) was signed into law on September 27, 2004, and goes into effect on January 1, 2005. This new law amends the Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement (STAKE) Act, (Business and Professions [B&P] Codes 22950-22963) to ban the self-service display of **all** tobacco products to reduce tobacco sales to minors (under 18 years of age).

What This Means To You

Beginning January 1, 2005, Environmental Specialists will inspect tobacco retailers for compliance with provisions of the new law that:

1. Prohibit the following items from being offered in self-service displays—cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco and other tobacco related paraphernalia.
2. Require that all the items listed above must be kept in a location not accessible to the public, such as behind the counter or in a locked area only accessible to store employees.
3. Does not permit any person under age 18 years old to be present or enter the premises at any time of a "Tobacco (Specialty) Store" unless accompanied by the person's parent or legal guardian, as defined in Section 6903 of the Family Code.

Enforcement

Violations of the self-service display of tobacco products regulation carry fines ranging from \$200 to \$6,000 and may result in license suspension or revocation. A re-inspection fee of \$149 will be charged if a tobacco retailer is found in non-compliance with State law and local requirements. The County Sheriff's Department will conduct surveillance and enforcement if retailers sell tobacco products to minors.

Continued on reverse

**Questions and
Answers****When does enforcement of the new law begin?**

Annual inspections, including the new requirements, begin January 1, 2005.

Where can I find more information about the Tobacco Retailer Inspection Program?

You may go online to download a summary of the Tobacco Retailer Inspection Program at www.emd.saccounty.net; click on the link to the Tobacco Retailer Program. You may also contact us at the telephone number listed below for additional assistance.

Where do I call to get information regarding a Sacramento County Tobacco Retail License?

Contact the County of Sacramento Department of Finance Business License Section at (916) 874-6644.

**For More
Information Or
Assistance**

For more information or assistance, call the Environmental Management Department (EMD) at (916) 875-8440. You may also go to the EMD web site, www.emd.saccounty.net for additional information.

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Roger Dickinson, 1st District
Illa Collin, 2nd District
Susan Peters, 3rd District
Roberta MacGlashan, 4th District
Don Nottoli, 5th District



Terry Schutten
County Executive

Penelope Clarke, Administrator
Countywide Services Agency

Mel Knight, Director
Environmental Management
Department