



STATE OF WASHINGTON

September 10, 2019

Dear Washington state tobacco and/or vapor product retailer:

Effective January 1, 2020, the legal minimum age of sale for tobacco and vapor products increases to 21 years of age. This applies to all tobacco and vapor products, whether or not they contain nicotine. Engrossed House Bill 1074, which implements this change, was enacted by the Washington State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Inslee on April 5, 2019.

Your partnership and support to ensure a smooth implementation is greatly appreciated.

Enclosed, please find resources we've prepared to:

- Help you notify your customers about the change; and
- Help you understand your responsibilities as a retailer to comply with the new law.

What's in this packet?

1. A yellow sign.

This sign must replace any current signs displaying 18 as the legal minimum age for persons to be sold tobacco and/or vapor products. While your business is not required to display the new signs until January 1, 2020, we would appreciate your help to display them as soon as possible, to help customers prepare for the change.

Signs are also available in Spanish, Russian, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, Ukrainian and Somali. Liquor and Cannabis Board officers who serve your area can help you get signs in these languages. Please ask for what you need during a visit to your business. You may also visit www.lcb.wa.gov/tobacco-vapor-21 to print your own signs.

2. Two stickers and two window decals.

These additional sign formats make it convenient for you to display the new minimum age in multiple places in your business.

3. Two flyers – one specific to retailers and one specific to clerks.

These resources outline risks to retailers and clerks who sell to underage customers, and provide statistics about the dangers to young people who use nicotine. They also provide some additional background about the changes made by the new law.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ) available online

We've collected information that can help you understand any potential impacts of the new law to your business. Visit www.lcb.wa.gov/tobacco-vapor-21 to find questions and answers specific to retailers, including answers to questions you may get from customers. The document also explains the new vapor product tax law, which is effective October 1, 2019.

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Implementing a new law requires that we undertake additional rulemaking to clarify and update current statutes that reference a legal sales age of 18. To receive email updates about rulemaking, visit <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WALCB/subscriber/new> and select the rulemaking topic.

We thank you for your support of this important change and we hope you find these materials useful. If you have questions or would like to provide feedback about the materials or suggestions about additional support or resources you need, please email LCB Enforcement Customer Service at EnfCustomerService@lcb.wa.gov, call (360) 664-9878 or visit <https://lcb.wa.gov/enforcement/contact-your-officer>.

Sincerely,



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Chief
Washington State Liquor and
Cannabis Board Enforcement



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