

INSPECTIONS

The BOE conducts inspections of all businesses selling cigarettes and tobacco products.

- **We will:**

- Identify ourselves, show our BOE ID, and give our business card.
- Explain why we are there and what we will be inspecting.
- Ask the person behind the counter for an ID and their relation to the business (i.e., owner, relative, employee, etc.).
- Ask to see your last 12 months of tobacco product invoices.



We will also:

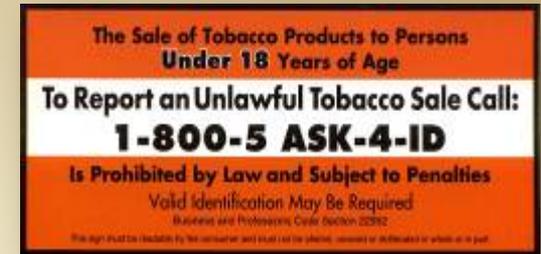
- Ask where cigarette and tobacco products are stored and permission to inspect these areas.
- Request access to any secured cigarette/tobacco storage areas.
- Check to see that your retail cigarette/tobacco license (LRQ) and seller's permit (SR) are posted.
- Verify that our registration information for your business is current.



and . . .

- Verify the STAKE Act sign is posted. If not visible, we will provide a sign.
- Ensure that single sticks of cigarettes are not being sold.
- Check cigarette packs are stamped and scan the stamps to verify that tax stamps are valid.
- Verify all cigarettes are listed on the CA Tobacco Directory.

Note: As of 9/22/09 flavored cigarettes are banned from sale in the U.S. and are subject to seizure.



Cigarette Tax Stamp

OLD



NEW

- New Design:
 - Primarily yellow-gold
 - Color shift - left edge changes from green to blue when tilted
- Unique 6-digit serial number; no 2 stamps have the same number.
- Stamp Validator:
 - allows you to determine if the stamp is authentic
 - to purchase, call 1-916-341-6923
- Old stamp shown above is still valid



California Tobacco Directory

Only cigarette brands and roll-your-own tobacco products listed in the Attorney General's California Tobacco Directory may be:

- sold
- offered for sale, or
- possessed for sale in California

For the current list of tobacco product manufacturers and their brands that are certified for sale in California, check the Attorney General's website at:

<http://ag.ca.gov/tobacco/directory.htm>



When products are removed from the CA Tobacco Directory, the law allows retailers to

- possess
- transport, and
- sell

tax-stamped cigarettes for **60** days from the effective date of the product's removal. After the 60 days, the “delisted” products may be seized.

NOTE: Your distributor may offer credit for returned merchandise that has been removed from the Tobacco Directory.



We will also:

- Verify that all cigarettes comply with the *California Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Act*.



- Only cigarettes certified by the manufacturer and approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshall as self-extinguishing may be sold in California (FSC).

