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Updated Oregon “Tobacco Products” definition goes into effect June 5, 2026

On March 31, 2026, Governor Tina Kotek signed [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1571](#) into law. As of June 5, 2026, the law expands Oregon’s definition of “tobacco products” to include oral nicotine pouches, nicotine lozenges, and other nicotine products, regardless of whether naturally or synthetically derived.

To enforce this change, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Tobacco Retail License Program will include these products in **all program inspections**.

What to expect during inspections

OHA and local partners inspect licensed tobacco retailers to make sure they follow state and federal tobacco sales laws. Inspectors check to make sure retailers don’t sell tobacco products to anyone under 21, look for required signs, proper product placement, and compliance with other retail sales laws.

Inspections will now hold tobacco-derived and synthetic nicotine products to the same standards as other tobacco products. Here’s what retailers need to know:

- **You must have a tobacco retail license** from the Department of Revenue or local licensing program to sell any tobacco products. Visit go.usa.gov/xe999 for details.
- **ALL tobacco products must be kept behind the counter** where only employees can access them, or they must be stored in a locked case. See the [No self-service tobacco product handout](#) for more information.
- **It is illegal to sell all tobacco products, including tobacco-derived or synthetic nicotine – to anyone under 21.** See [How to Read an Oregon ID](#) for guidance.
- [Medications containing nicotine that are approved](#) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as quit smoking medications are not tobacco products.

Examples of tobacco-derived and synthetic nicotine products

Inspectors will inspect products such as oral nicotine pouches, nicotine lozenges, and other products containing tobacco-derived or synthetic nicotine. Below are examples of products that fall under this expanded definition.



Photo source: (left) Minnesota Department of Health, (right) Food and Drug Administration

Connect with us

OHA wants every retailer to have the information they need to follow the law. If you have questions or need support, contact the Tobacco Retail License Program.

Public Health Division

Tobacco Retail License Program

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