INSPECTIONS
The Investigations Division (ID) of the CDTFA conducts inspections of all businesses selling cigarettes and OTP. When ID inspectors arrive at your business, they will:

- Identify themselves, show their CDTFA identification, and give their business card.
- Ask for the person in charge and for their identification.
- Explain the inspection process.
- Request access to any secured cigarette/tobacco products storage areas.
- Ask to see your last 12 months of cigarette and tobacco products invoices.
- Check that you have and properly display the appropriate licenses/permits.
The inspectors will verify that...

- Our information for your business is current.
- The STAKE Act sign is posted.
- All tobacco products are tax paid.
- All cigarette packs are affixed with valid California tax stamps.
- Single sticks of cigarettes are not being sold.
- All cigarettes comply with the California Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Act.
- All cigarettes and roll-your-own (RYO) tobacco products are listed on the Attorney General’s California Tobacco Directory: [https://oag.ca.gov/tobacco/directory](https://oag.ca.gov/tobacco/directory)

*Note: Except menthol, all flavored cigarettes are banned from sale in the U.S. and are subject to seizure.*
California Tobacco Directory

Only cigarettes and RYO tobacco brands and brand families certified by the California Attorney General’s Office are listed on the California Tobacco Directory. Under the law, only cigarettes and RYO tobacco brands and brand families listed on the California Tobacco Directory may be lawfully distributed, sold, offered for sale, or possessed for sale in California.

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

- possess,
- transport, and
- sell

the tax-paid product for **60 days** from the effective date of the product’s removal. After the 60 days, the “delisted” product becomes contraband and subject to seizure.