

Notice

New Warning Signs Required

Susan Combs
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

JULY 2007

Dear Tobacco Retailer:

Enclosed are two new warning signs for each of your tobacco retail stores. The signs include new language recently mandated by the 80th Texas Legislature cautioning pregnant women not to smoke.

The enclosed signs will replace the state-required signs currently displayed in your tobacco retail stores. Per state law, any establishment that sells tobacco products must post the warning signs close to the point of sale to be visible to both the seller and the buyer.

The new signs must be posted by Sept. 1, 2007, in order to comply with the legislative mandate. Failure to post the new warning sign in English is a Class C misdemeanor and could result in a citation by law enforcement personnel inspecting retail establishments.

As you are already aware, it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18. If a person is caught selling tobacco products to anyone under 18, he or she can be cited for a Class C misdemeanor and fined up to \$500. In addition, the retail location owner whose employee is found guilty of selling products to a minor may be assessed a civil penalty up to \$500 with the first offense.

To request additional warning signs, call the Comptroller's office toll-free at (800) 862-2260.

Thank you for being a partner in preventing the sale of tobacco to minors. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Texas STEP at (888) STEP-123.