



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Attorney General/Tobacco Enforcement Unit
Retail Inspections

What we are looking for:

- All cigarettes and roll your own tobacco must be listed on the Virginia Tobacco Directory ("Directory") of approved products.
- All cigarettes must contain a properly authorized and affixed Virginia tax stamp.
- All cigarettes must be marked as certified by the Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office as Fire Standards Compliant ("FSC").
- None of the cigarettes or roll your own tobacco may be listed as "For Export Only" or "Duty Free".

What to expect if your product is seized:

- The Office of the Attorney General ("OAG") will notify the Department of Taxation ("Tax") that contraband was seized. Tax will notify you directly if a civil penalty will be assessed for the contraband product. (See Virginia Code Section 3.2-4212).
- The OAG will seek court approval to destroy the contraband. The OAG will file a Notice of Seizure, Information and Notice of Hearing. You will receive a copy of each.
- Please refer to Virginia Code Section 3.2-4207(B) to determine whether you might have a right to a refund for seized products.

How can you ensure your inventory is in compliance?

- Check the Directory often. The Directory can be found at www.ag.virginia.gov (follow link to "Programs & Initiatives" and then "Tobacco Enforcement").
- The Directory contains a "Recent Changes" version to assist you in identifying the most recently removed products and indicates whether the removal was voluntary (removed) or involuntary (delisted).
- Virginia Code Section 3.2-4207 provides certain sell through deadlines following removal from the Directory. Please reference our "Guidance Regarding Sell Through Periods" also found on our website for further information.

For additional information:

- www.ag.virginia.gov (follow link to "Programs & Initiatives" and then "Tobacco Enforcement")
- 804-786-0148