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This report provides a description of select country-level laws that regulate the sale, use, advertising, promotion, taxation and/or classification of e-cigarettes. We reviewed 123 countries for regulations on e-cigarettes: 90 from a World Health Organization (WHO) report on e-cigarette policies,<sup>1</sup> 12 high-income (OECD) countries that were not in the WHO report and 21 additional countries. This report features table summaries that describe the regulatory domains, policies, product classifications and regulatory mechanisms employed by countries to regulate e-cigarettes.

## Summary

- Web searches of government websites and media reports yielded 71 countries that have national/federal laws regulating the sale, advertisement, promotion, sponsorship, taxation, use and classification of e-cigarettes.
- Fifty-five countries have bans or laws that prohibit or restrict the sale of e-cigarettes.
- Seventeen countries regulate e-cigarettes as medicinal products, 26 countries regulate e-cigarettes as tobacco products (or imitation/derivative/substitute products) and four countries regulate nicotine-containing e-cigarettes as poisons.

## 1. Strategies of e-cigarette regulation

E-cigarette policies reviewed covered the following regulatory domains: sale, TAPS (tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship), distribution, importation, manufacture, smoke-free, taxation, health warning labels (HWL), child safety and trademarks. The most pervasive are discussed in greater detail below.

### Sale:

Sixteen countries have minimum ages for e-cigarette purchase that mirror those of traditional cigarettes in their country. The minimum age of purchase is 18 years in Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Italy, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Togo and Viet Nam; 19 years in the Republic of Korea and 21 years in Honduras.

Sale of all types of e-cigarettes is banned in Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Colombia, Greece, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Suriname, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela.

The following countries have restrictions on the sale of e-cigarettes, including restricting/prohibiting the sale or requiring marketing authorization for products that have nicotine: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland.

<sup>1</sup> WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Electronic nicotine delivery systems (2014). Retrieved from: [http://apps.who.int/gb/fctc/PDF/cop6/FCTC\\_COP6\\_10-en.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/gb/fctc/PDF/cop6/FCTC_COP6_10-en.pdf?ua=1)



## Advertising, promotion and sponsorship (TAPS):

Of the 47 countries that have bans or restrictions on sale, 33 prohibit or restrict the advertising, promotion or sponsorship of e-cigarettes in their policies (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela). Some countries contend that TAPS bans are inherent within bans on sale (e.g. Argentina, Australia).

The following countries have set a minimum age of purchase and also have explicit TAPS bans/restrictions: Ecuador, Honduras, Malta, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Spain, Togo and Viet Nam.

Four countries have no sale or minimum age restrictions but do have TAPS bans/restrictions: Croatia, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Nepal.

## Tax:

Togo taxes e-cigarettes to a maximum of 45 percent and the Republic of Korea applies a special health tax to e-cigarettes proportional to USD 1.65 per mL nicotine liquid.

## Use:

Use of e-cigarettes is banned in Cambodia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

Use of e-cigarettes is banned in enclosed public spaces, including bars, restaurants and other workplaces in: Bahrain, Belgium, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Greece, Honduras, Malta, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Serbia and Turkey.

Use of e-cigarettes in certain enclosed public spaces is restricted in: Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica, Fiji, Slovakia, Spain, Togo, Ukraine and Viet Nam.

Use on public transportation is prohibited in: Bahrain, Belgium, Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji, Greece, Honduras, Malta, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine and Viet Nam.

Use is restricted on certain public transportation vehicles (or non-nicotine e-cigarettes can be used) in: Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica and Philippines.

## Product classification:

Countries classify e-cigarettes as tobacco products (or imitation/derivative/substitute products), medicinal/pharmaceutical products, consumer products, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)/e-cigarettes or poisons. Classification into these categories is based on nicotine content, purpose of use, device components and legal language.

### Nicotine content:

- Presence of nicotine: Classified as a medicine if it contains nicotine (e.g. Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, Norway)
- Nicotine concentration of product: Considered a medicine if it contains nicotine up to a certain cutoff point (e.g. Estonia, Sweden)
- Presentation/claims of the product by the manufacturer: If marketed as a cessation aid, then categorized as medicines, regardless of nicotine (e.g. Austria, Czech Republic, Venezuela)

Purpose of use: If used as a cessation device, it is classified as a medicine; if not used for therapeutic purposes, it is considered a restricted poison (e.g. Australia)

The components of the device: The outer cover, battery and atomizer are regulated using consumer product laws, while the nicotine cartridge and e-liquid are regulated as chemical products or poisons (e.g. Croatia)

Legal language: Classified as e-cigarettes (e.g. Bahrain, Jordan, Suriname) or as medicines (e.g. Philippines, Slovakia, Thailand) regardless of their nicotine content

Countries that classify e-cigarettes as consumer products include: Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Countries that classify e-cigarettes as consumer products if they do not make cessation claims or contain nicotine include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Hungary, Jamaica, New Zealand and Portugal.

Australia, Czech Republic and Malaysia regulate nicotine as poisons or hazardous substances and Brunei Darussalam classifies nicotine liquid as poisons if nicotine concentration is above 7.5 percent.

## 2. Regulatory mechanisms:

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New law/decreed/resolution/circular/notification (e.g. Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Nepal, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States).

Existing legislation (e.g. Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland and Viet Nam) or existing bans on imitation products (e.g. Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, Honduras, Lithuania, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Seychelles, Singapore, Thailand).

Amendments to existing legislation (e.g. Costa Rica, Fiji, Greece, Italy, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Suriname, Togo, Ukraine, Uruguay).

Combination of new and existing regulation (e.g. Bahrain, Ecuador, Japan, Thailand, United Kingdom).

France, Jamaica, Latvia and Turkey use a combination of amended tobacco control legislation and existing legislation to regulate e-cigarettes.

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**Table 1. Global E-cigarette Regulation: In-Depth Synopsis**

Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
Argentina	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation Smoke-free	A <b>ruling</b> bans the sale, advertisement, distribution and importation of e-cigarettes. A <b>decree</b> classified these as tobacco products, thus use is inherently prohibited in enclosed public spaces/transport by the national <b>tobacco control law</b> .	ENDS, Tobacco	Ruling, Decree, Existing law
Australia	Sale TAPS Importation	A <b>law</b> classifies nicotine as a restricted poison if it is not used for therapeutic purposes. Non-nicotine e-cigarettes are classified as legal consumer products. The sale and marketing of ENDS is prohibited, though according to a <b>statement</b> import for personal reasons may be permitted under certain instances. Advertising, promotion and sponsorship, as well as recreational use of ENDS, are inherently prohibited since the marketing of these products is banned.*	Nicotine: Poison, Non-nicotine: Consumer goods	Existing law
Austria	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation Manufacture	Classified as medicinal or consumer products depending on their presentation or claims. E-cigarettes that are classified as medicines have restrictions on sale, advertising, promotion, sponsorship, distribution, importation and manufacturing.*	Medicinal, Consumer goods	Existing law
Bahrain	Sale TAPS Smoke-free	Classified as tobacco products and referred to as e-cigarettes in the <b>decision</b> that bans their sale, importation and distribution. Bahrain's <b>tobacco control law</b> prohibits the advertisement, promotion, sponsorship and use of tobacco products (including e-cigarettes due to their classification) in enclosed public places and public transportation.	ENDS, Tobacco	Decision, Existing law
Belgium	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation Manufacture Smoke-free	According to a <b>science policy advisory report</b> nicotine-containing e-cigarettes are regulated as medicinal products and have not received marketing authorization to date, hence their sale, distribution, importation and manufacturing are illegal. However, e-cigarettes without nicotine are freely available. The medicines act stipulates rules on advertising of medicines. The use of e-cigarettes (with or without nicotine) is prohibited in enclosed public places and on public transportation by the <b>tobacco control law</b> .	Medicinal, Consumer goods	Existing law

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives

Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
Brazil	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation Smoke-free	Classified as tobacco products. A <b>resolution</b> prohibits the sale, advertisement, distribution and importation of e-cigarettes. As tobacco products, their use in public places and public transportation is prohibited by a <b>decree</b> .	Tobacco, E-cigarette	Resolution, Existing law
Brunei Darussalam	Sale Importation Smoke-free	Classified as tobacco imitation products. The <b>Tobacco Order</b> prohibits the sale, offer for sale or importation of items that imitate tobacco products. Their use is also prohibited in certain public places and on public transportation as listed in the Tobacco Order.* Nicotine preparations above 7.5 percent are classified as poisons and the <b>Poisons Act</b> stipulates that a license/permit from the Pharmacy Enforcement Unit of the Ministry of Health must be obtained before a person can import, possess for sale or offer for sale any poison.	Tobacco (imitation), Poison	Existing law
Cambodia	Sale Importation Smoke-free	Classified as e-cigarettes by a <b>circular</b> which bans their sale, importation and use.	E-cigarette	Circular
Canada	Sale TAPS Importation Manufacture	A <b>notice</b> by Health Canada classifies nicotine-containing e-cigarettes as new drugs under the Food and Drug Regulations. As such, there are restrictions on their sale, advertisement, promotion, sponsorship, importation and manufacturing. Products without nicotine are not regulated.	Drug, Consumer goods	Notice, Existing law
Chile	N/A	Nicotine-containing e-cigarettes are classified as medicinal products per a <b>resolution</b> . No e-cigarette has been registered with the appropriate agency to determine what regulations will be imposed, however the <b>medicines act</b> will dictate how these products are regulated once registered.*	Medicinal	Resolution Existing law
Colombia	Sale TAPS Manufacture Smoke-free	The <b>tobacco control law</b> classifies these products as tobacco imitations, banning sale, manufacturing and marketing/advertising. There are bans on the use of these products in enclosed public places and on public transport.*	Tobacco (imitation)	Existing law

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives

Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
Costa Rica	Sale TAPS Smoke-free	Referred to as ENDS in a <b>decree</b> and classified as tobacco products. In accordance with the <b>tobacco control law</b> , they cannot be sold to minors (under 18). Any form of advertisement, promotion or sponsorship is prohibited outside of adult-only venues/events or direct communications. Use of nicotine-containing products in enclosed public places and on public transport is banned. Non-nicotine products are regulated by the Registry for Dangerous Products, though their marketing is not regulated.*	ENDS, Tobacco (derivative)	Decree, Existing law
Croatia	TAPS	Croatia applies several existing regulations to e-cigarettes. The outer case of the e-cigarette and atomizer are subject to a <b>decision</b> on sanitary safety of consumer products. The cartridge (which contains the e-liquid) is subject to the European Union's <b>legislation</b> on chemicals and must be labeled appropriately. E-cigarettes that look like cigarettes cannot be advertised as the <b>tobacco control law</b> forbids the advertisement of imitation tobacco products.*	Consumer goods, Tobacco (imitation), Chemical product	Existing law
Czech Republic	Sale TAPS Manufacture	Defined in the <b>tobacco control act</b> as imitation tobacco products. They are classified as medicinal products and devices (if they are promoted as an aid to smoking cessation), general products (if they are promoted as an alternative to conventional cigarettes) or hazardous substances (if cartridge contains nicotine, and when the final use does not include the categories mentioned above). As hazardous substances, the manufacture and sale of nicotine cartridges can be carried out only by qualified personnel as stipulated by the <b>Trade Licensing Act</b> . Regarding advertising: as medicinal products, they are subject to the provisions in the <b>law</b> regulating the advertising of medicinal products. As general products, they should not be advertised in a way to encourage behavior harmful to health. The tobacco control act prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes to people under 18.	Medicinal, Tobacco (imitation), Consumer goods, Hazardous substance	Existing law

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives



Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
Denmark	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation	E-cigarettes with nicotine are classified as medicinal products and are thus required to obtain market authorization per a <b>guideline</b> by the Danish Health and Medicines Authority. However, no such authorization has been granted to date; consequently, it is illegal to sell, advertise, promote, sponsor or distribute these products. Furthermore, it is not permitted to import nicotine-containing e-cigarettes for the purpose of resale. However, non-nicotine e-cigarettes are simply classified as e-cigarettes as long as they are not presented as having therapeutic benefit and thus are not subject to the same restrictions.	Nicotine: Medicinal, Non-nicotine: E-cigarette	Existing law
Ecuador	Sale TAPS Smoke-free	Classified as ENDS per a <b>decree</b> . Minimum age of purchase is 18. Advertising is restricted to venues accessed solely by adults. The <b>tobacco control law</b> bans use in public spaces/transport. These policies do not include non-nicotine tobacco products.*	ENDS, Tobacco (derivative)	Decree, Existing law
Estonia	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation Manufacture	According to a <b>notice</b> by the Estonian State Agency of Medicines, e-cigarettes can be classified as medicinal products or consumer products ( <b>Consumer Protection Act</b> ) depending on their nicotine content. Products that contain 1.5 milligrams of nicotine or a concentration of nicotine exceeding 4 mg/mL are classified as medicinal products. Below these thresholds, the products are classified as consumer goods. Authorization is required before medicinal e-cigarettes can be marketed, however, no such authorization has been given to any product at this time.	Medicinal, Consumer goods	Notice, Existing law
Fiji	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation Manufacture Smoke-free	A <b>tobacco control (amendment) decree</b> applies to both nicotine-containing and non-nicotine e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes cannot be sold to minors (under 18), advertised or used in public transportation and certain enclosed public places. Authorization is required before they can be sold, distributed, imported or manufactured.	E-cigarette	Amended law/Decree

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives

Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
Finland	Sale TAPS Importation	E-cigarettes (with or without nicotine) are not classified as tobacco products, but as tobacco substitutes (liquid in cartridge) or tobacco imitations (device). Nicotine cartridges used in e-cigarettes are classified as medicinal products regulated by the <b>Medicines Act</b> . It is illegal to sell nicotine-containing e-cigarettes in Finland. However, it is permitted to import/order a three months' supply of nicotine-containing liquid for one person.* Advertising of any type of e-cigarette is banned by the <b>Tobacco Act</b> . There are no restrictions or bans for non-nicotine e-cigarettes.	Medicinal, Tobacco (imitation/substitute)	Existing law
France	Sale TAPS	Classified as consumer products (with or without nicotine). E-cigarettes cannot be sold in pharmacies as no e-cigarette brand has applied to the French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety to be marketed as a medicine. The <b>code of public health</b> was amended to ban the sale of e-cigarettes to minors and a circular was issued to interpret the regulation for e-cigarette advertisements. The Ministry of Health issued a <b>statement</b> that restricted the use of e-cigarettes in some public spaces. A ban on e-cigarette advertising is forthcoming.	Medicinal, Consumer goods	Amended law, Existing law
Germany	N/A	Three conjoined cases have deemed that e-cigarettes are not medicinal products. Currently, Germany classifies and regulates e-cigarettes as consumer goods, thus subject to the European Union's consumer products <b>laws</b> .	Consumer goods	Existing law
Greece	Sale TAPS Distribution Manufacture Smoke-free	A <b>law</b> bans the sale, display, manufacture and commercialization of e-cigarettes. Use of all types of e-cigarettes in enclosed public places is prohibited.*	E-cigarette	Amended law

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives



Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
Honduras	Sale TAPS Smoke-free	A <b>decree</b> classified e-cigarettes as tobacco derivative products, thus subject to tobacco control laws. Minimum age of purchase is 21. TAPS are prohibited, as is the use of these products in public spaces/transport.	Tobacco (derivative)	Decree, Existing law
Hungary	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation	Classified as medicinal if nicotine-containing according to the <b>medicines act</b> , and as consumer products if non-nicotine. Marketing authorization is required for sale of medicinal products. However, no e-cigarette brands have applied.*	Nicotine: Medicinal, Non-nicotine: Consumer goods	Existing law
Iceland	N/A	Classified as consumer products,* thus subject to the European Union's consumer products <b>laws</b> .	Consumer goods	Existing law
Ireland	N/A	Classified as consumer products,* thus subject to the European Union's consumer products <b>laws</b> .	Consumer goods	Existing law
Israel	N/A	The Supreme Court decided that the Ministry of Health did not have the authority to ban e-cigarettes. At present, there are no bans on sale or importation. E-cigarettes currently classified as consumer products.*	Consumer goods	Existing law
Italy	Sale	Classified as consumer products. A Ministry of Health <b>ordinance</b> increased the minimum age for purchase of e-cigarettes from 16 to 18 years.	Consumer goods	Amended law
Jamaica	Sale Distribution Importation Manufacture Smoke-free	Nicotine-containing e-cigarettes are classified as medicinal products under the <b>Food and Drugs Act</b> .* As such they must be registered before they can be imported (no approval has been granted for these products to date). The Food and Drugs Act prohibits the sale, distribution, importation or manufacture of a drug that is not registered with the Ministry of Health. A <b>tobacco control regulation</b> prohibits the use of ENDS in public places and on public transportation.	Medicinal, ENDS	Amended law, Existing law

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives

Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
Japan	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation	Non-nicotine e-cigarettes are currently not being regulated. However, nicotine-containing e-cigarettes are classified as medicinal products and are regulated under the Japanese pharmaceutical affairs <b>law</b> . Marketing approval for the sale, advertisement, manufacture, importation and distribution of medicinal products must be sought under this law. No medicinal e-cigarettes have been approved.* The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare issued a <b>statement</b> permitting the private importation of medicinal e-cigarettes, provided it is for private use only and the amount is less than one month's supply.	Nicotine: Medicinal	Statement, Existing law
Jordan	Sale TAPS Manufacture Importation Smoke-free	Jordan bans the sale, advertising, manufacturing, importation and use of e-cigarettes via an <b>official letter</b> .	E-cigarette	Official letter
Kuwait	Sale TAPS	The sale and marketing of e-cigarettes is banned in accordance with a <b>decision</b> by health ministers of gulf countries.*	E-cigarette	Decision
Latvia	Smoke-free	Classified as consumer products, thus subject to the European Union's consumer products <b>laws</b> . Use of e-cigarettes is prohibited where smoking is banned, including certain public places and on public transportation.* (not available online)	Consumer goods, E-cigarette	Amended law, Existing law
Lebanon	Sale Distribution Importation	A <b>decision</b> bans the importation and trading of all types of e-cigarettes and orders the withdrawal of all e-cigarettes from the Lebanese market.	E-cigarette	Decision
Lithuania	Sale Manufacture	The sale and manufacture of e-cigarettes are banned as imitation tobacco products, as stipulated by the <b>tobacco control law</b> .	Tobacco (imitation)	Existing law
Malaysia	Sale Distribution Importation	Nicotine is classified as a class C poison under the <b>Poisons Act</b> and <b>Control of Drugs and Cosmetics Regulations</b> .* Devices without nicotine are classified as electrical appliances. The sale, distribution or importation of unlicensed nicotine-containing e-cigarettes is prohibited. The Poisons Act also forbids the sale or supply of poisons to people under 18. Nicotine-containing e-cigarettes can only be sold by licensed pharmacies or registered medical practitioners.	Nicotine: Poison, Electrical appliance	Existing law

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives

Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
Malta	Sale TAPS Smoke-free	A <b>legal notice</b> classifies e-cigarettes as tobacco devices. Sale to minors under 18, advertising and use in enclosed public places and on public transportation are prohibited. E-cigarettes are also regulated by the <b>Product Safety Act</b> . Those looking to market e-cigarettes as medical devices must do so under all provisions of the medical device <b>directive</b> and the <b>directive</b> on medicinal products.*	Tobacco	Legal notice, Existing law
Mauritius	Sale Distribution	A public health <b>regulation</b> prohibits the sale, offer for sale or distribution of products that look like tobacco or cigarettes.*	Tobacco (imitation)	Existing law
Mexico	Sale TAPS Distribution Manufacture	The national <b>tobacco control law</b> prohibits the sale, distribution, exhibition, promotion or manufacture of an object that imitates a tobacco product. These prohibitions are specific to nicotine-containing e-cigarettes.*	Nicotine: Tobacco (imitation), Non-nicotine: Unclear	Existing law
Netherlands	TAPS HWL Child-safety	Classified as consumer products, thus subject to the European Union's consumer products <b>laws</b> . The advertisement of all forms of e-cigarettes is banned according to the <b>Electronic Cigarette Temporary Commodities Act</b> . The Act also limits the nicotine concentration to 20 mg/mL, limits e-cigarette cartridges to 10 mL (2 mL for cartridge), requires childproof e-cigarettes and refill packs and stipulates that packs display relevant product information, including a warning on the addictive nature of nicotine on 30 percent of the two major surfaces of any outside packaging.	E-cigarette, Consumer goods	Decree, Existing law
Nepal	TAPS Smoke-free	A notification (not available online) bans advertising, promotion and sponsorship as well as use in public places and transportation.*	E-cigarette	Notification

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives

Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
New Zealand	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation	Under the <b>Medicines Act</b> , nicotine-containing e-cigarettes or non-nicotine e-cigarettes promoted as therapeutic products are classified as medicinal. As medicinal products, there are restrictions on sale, advertising and distribution. At present, no e-cigarettes have been approved as medicines. Nicotine-containing e-cigarettes are also regulated as tobacco products by the <b>Smoke-free Environments Act</b> , which prohibits their sale. Non-nicotine e-cigarettes that are not marketed as therapeutic products can be sold, but not to minors under 18 if they look like tobacco products. E-cigarettes (including those containing nicotine) can be imported, provided they are for personal use only.	Medicinal, Tobacco, Consumer goods	Existing law
Nicaragua	Sale Importation Manufacture	The national <b>tobacco control law</b> prohibits the sale, importation or manufacture of objects imitating tobacco products.*	Tobacco (imitation)	Existing law
Norway	Sale TAPS Importation	E-cigarettes can be classified as medicinal products, tobacco imitations and/or e-cigarettes. A <b>regulation</b> bans the import and sale of nicotine-containing e-cigarettes, but if the products are classified as medicines, they may be imported for private use. Non-nicotine e-cigarettes cannot be sold to persons under 18, and cannot be advertised or displayed at points of sale ( <b>Tobacco Control Act</b> ).	Medicinal, Tobacco (imitation), E-cigarette	Existing law
Oman	Sale TAPS	Regulation to implement a <b>decision</b> by the health ministers of gulf countries is underway. The regulation will ban the sale and marketing of e-cigarettes.*	E-cigarette	Decision
Panama	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation Smoke-free	A <b>decree</b> classifies e-cigarettes as tobacco products. Sale, TAPS, distribution and importation of e-cigarettes with or without nicotine are prohibited. The use of these products is banned in public spaces and transport.	ENDS, Tobacco (imitation)	Decree

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives

Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
Philippines	Sale Smoke-free Child safety	An <b>order</b> classifies e-cigarettes as medicinal products and medical devices. They must pass the safety, efficacy and quality evaluation of the Food and Drug Authority of the Philippines for market authorization as a health product and health-related device to be issued. The cartridge and devices are required to be childproof. E-cigarettes are subject to clean air laws in the <b>tobacco regulation act</b> , which prohibits their use in public places and restricts their use on public transportation.	Medicinal, Medical device	Order
Poland	N/A	Poland classifies e-cigarettes as consumer goods. E-cigarette cartridges are classified as “chemical mixtures” and are thus subject to the European Union’s <b>regulations</b> on chemical substances and their mixtures.*	Chemical mixture, Consumer goods	Existing law
Portugal	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation Manufacture Smoke-free	E-cigarettes are regulated as medicinal products, medical devices and consumer products, based on product claims. As medicinal products there are restrictions on sale, advertising, distribution, importation, manufacturing and use in accordance with a law.* (not available online)	Medicinal, Medical device, Consumer goods	Existing law
Qatar	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation	A <b>circular</b> strictly prohibits the sale, distribution and advertising of e-cigarettes in pharmacies; another <b>circular</b> strictly prohibits their importation into the country. The sale and marketing of e-cigarettes is banned in accordance with a <b>decision</b> of health ministers of gulf countries.*	E-cigarette	Decision, Circular
Republic of Korea	Sale TAPS Smoke-free Tax	Nicotine-containing e-cigarettes are classified as tobacco products and thus their sale is banned to minors (under 19) according to an <b>act</b> . Their use is banned in public places and transport with the exception of designated smoking areas. Nicotine-containing e-cigarettes can only be featured a maximum of 10 times in magazines.* These products are under a special health tax, proportional to 1,799 won/mL nicotine liquid ( <b>Tobacco Business Act</b> ).	Nicotine: Tobacco, Non-nicotine: Consumer goods	Existing law

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives

Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
Saudi Arabia	Sale TAPS	The sale and marketing of e-cigarettes is banned in accordance with a <b>decision</b> of health ministers of gulf countries.*	E-cigarette	Decision
Serbia	Smoke-free	The use of e-cigarettes is prohibited in enclosed public places and on public transportation.*	N/A	Existing law
Seychelles	Sale TAPS Distribution Importation Manufacture	The <b>Tobacco Control Act</b> prohibits the manufacture, import, supply, display, distribution or sale of imitation tobacco products.	Tobacco (imitation)	Existing law
Singapore	Sale Distribution Importation	E-cigarettes are classified by the <b>tobacco control act</b> as imitation tobacco products banning their sale, distribution and importation.	Tobacco (imitation)	Existing law
Slovakia	Sale TAPS Smoke-free	Products are regulated by the rules for tobacco products and tobacco-free products intended to be smoked. Sales to minors (under 18) are banned. A <b>tobacco control act</b> bans use outside of designated smoking areas. Another act places restrictions on advertising. Summary unable to be confirmed with in-country contacts.	Tobacco/ tobacco-free product intended to smoked	Amended law
South Africa	N/A	The application of the classification of nicotine as a schedule 3 substance to nicotine-containing e-cigarettes is being challenged in court. Regulations that address sale or use have not been developed.*	N/A	N/A
Spain	Sale TAPS Smoke-free	An <b>official bulletin</b> declares the sale of ENDS or similar products to minors (under 18) is banned. TAPS restrictions regulate media and time of day advertisements can be shown on television. Another <b>bulletin</b> states that smoking e-cigarettes is prohibited in public spaces outside of designated smoking areas.	ENDS	Amended law
Suriname	Sale Distribution Importation	The <b>Tobacco Law</b> prohibits prohibits the importation, distribution and sale of electronic cigarettes.	E-cigarette	New law
Sweden	Sale	In a <b>statement</b> by the Swedish Medical Products Agency e-cigarettes are considered medicinal products if nicotine is above 6mg/mL threshold,* and must be approved as drugs before being sold. This decision is currently being challenged in court. Below the threshold there are no bans blocking e-cigarettes from being used in public buildings or restaurants.*	Medicinal	Statement

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives

Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
Switzerland	Sale Importation	In a <b>statement</b> by the Federal Office of Public Health, non-nicotine e-cigarettes are regulated within the scope of the <b>food act</b> as commodities. However, the sale of nicotine-containing e-cigarettes is prohibited. Import for personal use is allowed (up to 150 mL).	Nicotine: E-cigarette, Non-nicotine: Commodity (Consumer goods)	Existing law
Thailand	Sale Importation Manufacture Tax	E-cigarettes are prohibited under several regulatory mechanisms. The <b>Medicine Act</b> prohibits manufacturing, sale and importation of “modern” medicinal products. The <b>Tobacco Products Control Act</b> prohibits importation and sale of products imitating cigarettes. A <b>notification</b> by the Ministry of Commerce bans the import of e-cigarettes, including those without nicotine. A Consumer Protection Board's order (not available online) bans sale of e-cigarettes, including those without nicotine.* The <b>Customs Act</b> prohibits people from bringing untaxed products into Thailand. There is no explicit law banning the use of e-cigarettes, but e-cigarettes are banned where laws prohibit smoking.*	“Modern” medicinal, Tobacco (imitation), E-cigarette	Order, Notice, Existing law
Togo	Sale TAPS Smoke-free Tax	The <b>tobacco control law</b> classifies nicotine-containing e-cigarettes as “derivative products.” The law forbids provision to minors (under 18), advertising and promotion, and prohibits smoking in public places/transport outside of designated areas. These products are subject to duties/fees and are not eligible for tax exemptions; they are taxed at a ceiling of 45 percent. These policies also regulate non-nicotine e-cigarettes.*	Tobacco (derivative)	Existing law
Turkey	Sale TAPS Smoke-free Tax	Ministry of Health issued a circular (not available online) indicating that the sale and importation of e-cigarettes and related devices are banned.* However, other legislation seems inconsistent with this statement. One <b>law</b> states that e-cigarettes (with or without nicotine*) are classified as tobacco products. Another <b>law</b> bans the sale of tobacco products to minors (under 19), TAPS and the use of tobacco products in public spaces/transport. A <b>notice</b> makes mention of e-cigarettes as part of the customs tariff schedule.	Tobacco, E-cigarette	Circular, Notice, Amended law

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives



Country	Regulatory Domains	Policy Summary	Product Classification	Regulatory Mechanism
Ukraine	Sale Smoke-free	A <b>law</b> classifies these products as e-cigarettes and prohibits their use in public spaces/transport, with the exception of designated areas.	E-cigarette	Amended law
United Arab Emirates	Sale TAPS Importation	The sale and marketing of e-cigarettes is banned in accordance with a <b>decision</b> of health ministers of gulf countries. The Ministry of Health has also banned their use.*	E-cigarette	Decision
United Kingdom	TAPS	Classifies e-cigarettes as consumer products, thus subject to the European Union's consumer products <b>laws</b> . There are advertising restrictions in place to limit them being seen by children or appealing to youth per a <b>statement</b> by the committees of advertising practice.	Consumer goods, E-cigarette	Statement, Existing law
United States	N/A	The Food and Drug Administration has released a proposed rule to classify e-cigarettes as <b>tobacco products</b> . No federal laws are present, though 43 states and many municipalities regulate e-cigarettes by restricting youth access and/or banning use in public places.	Tobacco	Proposed rule
Uruguay	Sale TAPS Importation Trademarks	Nicotine and non-nicotine e-cigarette sale, importation, registration as a brand/patent and promotion is explicitly banned by an <b>amendment/ decree</b> .	Electronic smoking device	Amendment/ Decree
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)	Sale TAPS Smoke-free	Companies wishing to import e-cigarettes must indicate whether the product should be classified as a medicinal, consumer good or tobacco derivative.* If regulated as a tobacco- derivative, e-cigarettes cannot be sold to minors, advertised/promoted or used in enclosed public spaces or transport, as dictated by the <b>tobacco control law</b> . If indicated as medicinal or consumer products, they must be subject to extensive clinical trials like other nicotine replacement therapies before being sold, promoted, distributed or used.* At this time, no product has been registered, thus the sale, promotion and distribution of e-cigarettes is illegal per an <b>alert</b> .	Medicinal, Tobacco (derivative), Consumer goods	Alert, Existing law
Viet Nam	Sale TAPS Smoke-free	Classified as tobacco products,* the national <b>tobacco control law</b> bans sale to minors and marketing/advertising. Smoking tobacco products is prohibited in public spaces and public transport, with the exception of designated smoking areas.	Tobacco	Existing law

\*Source: Personal communication with in-country experts and/or Ministry of Health representatives

**Table 2. Global E-cigarette Regulation: At a Glance**

Country	Sale	Marketing, distribution & manufacturing					Tax	Use			Product classification					Regulatory mechanism
	Minimum age	Ban on sales	Ban on advertising, promotion and/or sponsorship	Ban on distribution	Ban on importation	Ban on manufacturing	Tax	Ban on use	Ban on use in enclosed public places	Ban on use in public transport	Medicinal	Tobacco	Consumer	ENDS/E-cigarette	Poison	Existing, New or Amended regulation
Argentina		√	√	√	√				√	√		√		√		N, E
Australia		*	√		*								√		√	E
Austria		*	*	*	*	*					√		√			E
Bahrain		√	√	√	√				√	√		√		√		N, E
Belgium		*	*	*	*	*			√	√	√		√			E
Brazil		√	√	√	√				√	√		√		√		N
Brunei Darussalam		√			√				*	*		√			√	E
Cambodia		√			√			√						√		N
Canada		*	*		*	*							√	√		E
Chile											√					N, E
Colombia		√	√			√			√	√		√				E
Costa Rica	18	*	*						*	*		√		√		N, E
Croatia			*									√	√			E
Czech Republic	18	*	*			*					√	√	√		√	E
Denmark		*	*	*	*						√			√		E
Ecuador	18		*						√	√		√		√		N, E
Estonia		*	*	*	*	*					√		√			E
Fiji	18	*	√	*	*	*			*	√				√		A
Finland		*	√		*						√	√				E
France	18	*	*								√		√			A, E
Germany													√			E
Greece		√	√	√		√			√	√				√		A
Honduras	21		√						√	√		√				N, E
Hungary		*	*	*	*						√		√			E
Iceland													√			E
Ireland													√			E
Israel													√			E
Italy	18												√			A
Jamaica		*		*	*	*			√	√	√			√		A, E
Japan		*	*	*	*	*					√					N, E
Jordan		√	√		√	√		√						√		N
Kuwait		√	√											√		N
Latvia									*	√			√			A, E
Lebanon		√		√	√									√		N
Lithuania		√				√						√				E
Malaysia	18	*		*	*										√	E
Malta	18		√						√	√		√				E
Mauritius		√		√								√				E
Mexico		√	√	√		√						√				E
Netherlands			√										√	√		N, E
Nepal			√						√	√				√		N
New Zealand	18	*	√	*	*						√	√	√			E
Nicaragua		√			√	√						√				E
Norway	18	*	√		*						√	√		√		E
Oman		√	√											√		N

Country	Sale		Marketing, distribution & manufacturing				Tax	Use			Product classification					Regulatory mechanism
	Minimum age	Ban on sales	Ban on advertising, promotion and/or sponsorship	Ban on distribution	Ban on importation	Ban on manufacturing	Tax	Ban on use	Ban on use in enclosed public places	Ban on use in public transport	Medicinal	Tobacco	Consumer	ENDS/E-cigarette	Poison	Existing, New or Amended regulation
Panama		√	√	√	√				√	√		√		√		N
Philippines		*							√	*	√					N
Poland													√			E
Portugal		*	*	*	*	*		*			√		√			E
Qatar		√	√	√	√									√		N
Republic of Korea	19		√				√		*	*		√				E
Saudi Arabia		√	√											√		N
Serbia									√	√						E
Seychelles		√	√	√	√	√						√				E
Singapore		√		√	√							√				E
Slovakia	18		*						*	√		√				A
South Africa											?					E
Spain	18		*						*	√				√		A
Suriname		√		√	√									√		N
Sweden		*									√					N
Switzerland		*			*								√	√		E
Thailand		√			√	√					√	√		√		N, E
Togo	18		√				√		*	√		√				E
Turkey		√	√		√				√	√		√		√		N, A
Ukraine									*	√				√		A
United Arab Emirates		√	√					√						√		N
United Kingdom			*										√	√		N, E
United States												√				N
Uruguay		√	√		√									√		A
Venezuela		√	√						√	√	√	√		√		E
Viet Nam	18		√						*	√		√				E

LEGEND	
* Restrictions/conditional ban	E Existing tobacco control, medicinal, or consumer product law
N New legislation/decreree/resolution/circular	A Amended tobacco control law
? Unclear	