

Summary of Tobacco Control Measures submitted to HK Government by Clear the Air, which can be implemented at ZERO or little cost to Government - and the [successful results to date](#):

2008

Extension of the anti smoking legislation

Tobacco In Hong Kong - Clear the Air's Suggestions to the HK Govt and Panel on Health Services 2008

- 1) Increase tobacco taxation to be at least 75% of retail pricing. For example in UK the tax per pack ratio is 77% . Continue to raise taxes each year thereafter to conform with FCTC treaty requirements. This is proven to prevent youth smoking, reduce adult smoking and healthcare costs.
- 2) Mandate plain packaging for cigarettes and other tobacco products sold in Hong Kong . Please see the attached relevant university report.
- 3) License all tobacco retailers. Amend privacy laws to allow licensed tobacco retailers to verify the identity and age of youth buyers. Make it an offence to buy for and supply youth. All tobacco sales retail outlets must not be allowed to display the product openly and must sell from below the counter. Withdraw licences of tobacco retailers caught selling to underage youth and enforce punitive fines.
- 4) Double the number of TCO inspectors to enhance the Fixed Penalty Scheme and continue to grow this office.
- 5) Enact laws to prevent smoking within (at least) 10 meters of building entrances, exits and entrances to bars , restaurants and food establishments. Restaurant receipts here in 2008 show non smoking laws work – takings are up 30.8% on 2006 receipts.
- 6) Enact laws to prevent smoking in OSA areas of restaurants , bars and food outlets. No smoking to be allowed in any area of a food licensed premises or its seating / standing areas.
- 7) Prevent access to youth and schools by YSP supposed NGOs which are funded by tobacco companies. Drug traffickers do not have a CSR vehicle to show what nice people they are ; neither should these tobacco funded NGO's be allowed to act as CSR fronts for Big Tobacco.
- 8) Stop the sales of duty free tobacco at seaport , Macau / Zhuhai etc ferry terminals and airport. Reduce the amount of duty free tobacco allowed to be imported to zero.
- 9) Increase the number of cessation and treatment clinics available out of office hours in accessible locations. Have a yearly lottery for successful quitters to encourage them to remain smoke free.
- 10) Forbid infomercial stories in the media that announce tobacco related material or new products such as the start of the Playboy cigar range shown this year in SCMP.
- 11) Ban smoking in partially covered outdoor areas of the airport, seaport terminals and ferry terminals within 30 meters of the entrances and exits. Cross hatch the forbidden areas and paint large 'No Smoking' signs on those areas. (these areas are akin to the Central escalator which is open on both sides and at both ends)
- 12) Rebrand Hong Kong as 'Asia's World Non-Smoking City'
- 13) Ban smoking in vehicles where children under the age of 18 are present.
Enclosed vehicle cabs are highly toxic concentrated environments. Buses, taxis and Government vehicles are already smokefree by law and it is time to consider banning smoking in all moving vehicles. The UK Highway code acknowledges smoking or holding a lit tobacco product whilst driving as prima facie careless driving, similar to holding a mobile phone whilst driving that distracts the driver and smoking by drivers is proven to cause traffic accidents.

Added to above list 2016:

Wish list 2016 – start saving lives

- 14) Raise the age to purchase and use tobacco products to 21 (frontal lobe development in youth affects decision making)
- 15) Any local or imported E-Cig liquid must have an FDA and local Government chemist approval and any e-cig equipment adaptor must possess an EMSD certificate of electrical safety compliance before it can be imported and used
- 16) Graphic health warnings 85% on both sides of the pack, with at least 12 new graphic warnings to be rotated on a regular basis to maintain the repulse factor effect
- 17) Enact Plain Standardised Generic Packaging
- 18) Place legal onus on restaurant/bar licensees to enforce the anti-smoking law (as now mandated in China) with mandatory loss of operating/liquor licence penalty and large fines for non compliance – this immediately adds 8,000 licensee enforcers to the TCO
- 19) Follow FCTC guidelines to demand excise tax in excess of inflation and additionally have regular excise tax increases as a preventative measure with excise tax to be at least 85% of the local retail price for a 1st world country with high cost of living and affordability index – mandate a minimum retail price for cigarettes (as in UK 2017) ALL EXCISE REVENUE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS TOBACCO CONTROL PREVENTION and ENFORCEMENT MEASURES, instead of the General Fund. Tobacco Control Office requires at

least 1,000 officers to cover 2 shifts and to be able to patrol, especially now Govt wants them also to enforce the proposed buying of liquor age laws.

- 20) Under FCTC guidelines demand and reveal all sponsorship by tobacco companies of local front groups, political party funding and any CSR by same tobacco companies
- 21) Under FCTC guidelines, compel public servants (includes Legco members and District Councillors) to disclose and divest of any shareholdings they hold directly or through family members or other means or Trusts, in the tobacco industry
- 22) Deny lawmakers who are found or admit to being tobacco / tobacco front or similar bodies consultants (whether unpaid or paid) from any voting /decision making on tobacco related policies
- 23) Ban menthol and flavored tobacco products such as DJ Peel from local manufacture, sales, import and export
- 24) Enforce FCTC guidelines that any Government dealings with the tobacco industry must be held in public, noting that such meetings should only be held as a means of regulating the industry
- 25) Charge tobacco executives whose products are found DNP in the local market with conspiracy to defraud the Govt of excise tax by failing to control their distribution network and supply chain + Name and Shame (as happened previously in Canada)
- 26) Mandate that all shisha , cigar and other tobacco products must have tar and nicotine certification by the Government chemist like cigarettes – use the Canadian test method in the Government Lab instead of ISO which does not allow for smoker compensation
- 27) Implement a point of display ban on tobacco products and licence all tobacco retailers
- 28) Ban indirect tobacco advertising in Hong Kong such as CSR masquerading as Davidoff Art Initiative
- 29) Mandate political party funding whether direct or indirect by the tobacco industry or their front groups or lobbyists persona, be disclosed and prevented
- 30) Double the current level of excise taxation immediately, mandate agreed annual increases in addition to a separate tax to be in excess of the inflation rate. Make tobacco unaffordable to children who should be aged 21 to legally purchase or possess tobacco.
- 31) Consider a tobacco free generation – forbid the purchase or possession of tobacco products by any youth born after an agreed date, e.g. 2000
- 32) Set out the policies for the Tobacco Endgame
- 33) Demand MPF Trustees divest from tobacco shareholdings
- 34) Mandate all tobacco sold in Hong Kong must carry SICPA security labels (not Codentify)
- 35) Pursue and charge any bodies which are found or admit to ‘picking over refuse’ as a sham “Empty Pack Survey’ methodology

All of these are valid tobacco control measures adopted in sensible countries which have the political will to save lives and prevent children succumbing to nicotine addiction – **this basket of measures is FREE OF COST to Govt** and items such as 4) and 9) can be funded from the increased excise taxes.

Does the US Surgeon General attend tobacco funded Atlas Network partner functions like our previous Financial Secretary repeatedly did ?

2017

- 36) **Graphic health warnings 85% on both sides of the pack, with at least 12 new graphic warnings to be rotated on a regular basis to maintain the effect (Passed Legco after big fight with Liberal Party and partisan Health Services Chairman-pending roll out – this would have failed if not for measures taken by Dr Mackay and NGO’s The Govt has zero idea how to market a proposal and lobby lawmakers)**
- 37) Place legal onus on licensees to enforce the anti-smoking law (as now mandated in China) with loss of licence penalty and large fines for non compliance
- 38) Follow FCTC guidelines to demand excise tax in excess of inflation and additionally have regular excise tax increases as a preventative measure with excise tax to be at least 85% of the local retail price for a 1st world country with high cost of living and affordability index
- 39) Under FCTC guidelines demand and reveal all sponsorship by tobacco companies of local front groups, political party funding and any CSR by same tobacco companies
- 40) Deny lawmakers who are found or admit to being tobacco / tobacco front or similar bodies consultants (whether unpaid or paid) from any voting /decision making on tobacco related policies
- 41) Ban flavored tobacco products such as DJ Peel from local sales, import and export
- 42) Enforce FCTC guidelines that any Government dealings with the tobacco industry to be held in public
- 43) Charge tobacco executives whose products are found DNP in the local market with conspiracy to defraud the Govt of excise tax by failing to control their distribution network + Name and Shame
- 44) Mandate that all shisha , cigar and other tobacco products must have tar and nicotine certification by the Government chemist like cigarettes and using the Canadian test method

45) Implement a point of display ban on tobacco products and licence all tobacco retailers

2018

46) Ban ENDS and HNB products- (CE Carrie Lam took the incentive and negated Health Bureau flawed proposal to regulate these products, which would get into youth hands if legalised- as proven by current US epidemic) Awaiting Legco rubber stamp but majority of legislators lobbied are in favour

47) Based on provided evidence of world cigarette prices mandate a minimum selling price for all cigarettes of HKD 120 per pack – this method is used in UK and prevents the industry selling cheaper versions to keep the public addicted Mandate a scheduled increase in excess of inflation monitored twice per year and have an initial Excise tax of HKD 100 per packet. Like Australia and New Zealand, set in stone a 12.5% excise increase per annum thereafter. Mandate at least 50% of excise tax is directed to tobacco control staffing and public education.

48) Ombudsman to take investigate action against the Government for failing to transpose the (ratified October 2005) FCTC Articles, especially Article 5.3 into local legislation leaving Legco hamstrung by tobacco front lawmakers.

49) Ombudsman to do followup of its reported findings on Govt inadequacy in tobacco control, noting that TCO is also now burdened with U18 alcohol sales prevention and prosecution. What has happened to the Liquor Licensing Board adding a simple sentence to licence conditions preventing the use of all tobacco and ecig products?

50) Extend all tobacco control measures to OSA areas.

51) Re-examine the laws on licensee onus instead of just the smoker.

52) Re-examine the definition of ‘enclosed’ to cover all walkways with a roof or add a separate section.

53) Legislate No Smoking within 20 meters of ANY bus stop or public queue or meeting or procession.

54) Legislate to ban all forms of smoking near any doorway, window, air intake of any school, office, industrial premises, licensed premises or Govt building.

55) The FCTC requirement for ALL Government officials to declare and divest any tobacco related stakeholdings is way overdue- Ombudsman to investigate why Govt has ignored this important measure.

56) MPFA to take responsibility for its Trustee’s ethical investments and force all to divest unethical investments in tobacco, land mines, prostitution etc. Hong Kong Govt to become an active member of Tobacco Free Portfolios.

<https://tobaccofreeportfolios.org/who-we-are/>

57) Require all tobacco companies to publish a detailed list as required under FCTC of any donations to political parties, tobacco front groups or individuals in cash or kind and backdated to 1997 commencement of the HKSAR Govt’s responsibility to enforce FCTC.

58) Forbid any Government paid official or bodies from supporting tobacco industry or industry fronts. Official means any person paid from the public purse and includes Exco members, lawmakers and district councillors.

59) Ban the import of Duty Free tobacco of any kind, as in Singapore.

60) Require the tobacco industry to reveal marketing figures and data on sales channels including how many sales are made through street newspaper vendors. Require the licensing of all retail outlets with heightened punishments for sales to minors and for persons buying on behalf of minors.

61) Forbid Government officials from attending events or dinners or the like provided by industry or their tobacco front groups (eg Lion Rock Institute – John Tsang)

The above all form part of the Tobacco Endgame

Ratified FCTC Treaty – non compliance

4.6 Parties **should require government officials to declare and divest themselves of direct interests in the tobacco industry.**

4.7 Government institutions and their bodies should not have any financial interest in the tobacco industry, unless they are responsible for managing a Party’s ownership interest in a State-owned tobacco industry.

4.11 Taking into account national law and constitutional principles, Parties **should have effective measures to prohibit contributions from the tobacco industry** or any entity working to further its interests to **political parties**, candidates or campaigns, **or to require full disclosure of such contributions.**

5.2 Parties should require the tobacco industry and those working to further its interests to periodically **submit information** on tobacco production, manufacture, market share, marketing expenditures, revenues and any other activity, **including lobbying, philanthropy, political contributions** and all other activities not prohibited or not yet prohibited under Article 13 of the Convention.

6.4 Parties should not allow acceptance by any branch of government or the public sector of **political**, social, financial, educational, community or other **contributions from the tobacco industry** or from those working to further its interests, except for compensations due to legal settlements or mandated by law or legally binding and enforceable agreements.

https://ofomb.ombudsman.hk/abc/en-us/direct_investigations

February 2018

The Mechanism of the Food and Health Bureau and the Department of Health for Handling Smoking Offences

(III) Inadequacies in Legislation

(H) No Penalty for Venue Managers Who Fail to Comply with Tobacco Control Provisions

16. The laws of many developed countries (such as the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore) contain relevant provisions imposing penalties on venue managers who allow offenders to smoke in no-smoking areas. However, there is no such provision in the current legislation in Hong Kong.

17. In fact, from the complaints handled by this Office, we note that the smokers in many cases were employees of an organisation. Those employees, who stay at the workplaces for prolonged hours, pose more serious hazards to the health of their colleagues. Being their employers or supervisors, the venue managers surely have the ability and responsibility to prevent illegal smoking of their own employees and protect the other staff from exposure to second-hand smoke. In our view, the Government should actively consider amending the legislation to compel adherence to tobacco control provisions on the part of venue managers.

(I) Imposing Anti-smoking Licensing Conditions on Places of Entertainment

18. Many places of entertainment, including billiard saloons, mahjong-tin kau premises and amusement game centres, are prone to more serious problems of illegal smoking. **We consider that the Government should study whether the licensing authorities and departments concerned can be authorised to introduce tobacco control requirements in the licensing conditions of such places.**

Suggested Immediate Priorities:

- 1 **A tax 5% in excess of inflation and like Australia, and UK, updated twice per annum, with an Excise tax increase per annum (eg Australia 12.5% pa) set in stone. At least 50% of the excise tax to fund Tobacco Control Office increased staffing that allows them to patrol.**
- 2 **Onus on the licensees to enforce the law or risk losing their licenses. Start immediately with a one sentence amendment to the Liquor Licence Regulations that forbids all forms of smoking in the premises and OSA areas. Easily amended on Liquor Licence Conditions – no need for Legco vetting.**
- 3 **Transposition of FCTC Articles into local legislation. This would then cover many of the above points.**

World Cigarette pricing 2018 – comparison October 2018

Hong Kong – too affordable for youth - Zero Political Will by FHB and DOH

Marlboro cigarettes pack **HKD 57**

Former Financial Secretary Tsang a regular attendee at Lion Rock Institute annual dinners – Lion Rock opposes health prevention measure WHO mPower recommended tobacco tax increases

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201611/14/P2016111400670.htm>

<https://www.atlasnetwork.org/news/article/atlas-network-experience-in-hong-kong-celebrates-one-of-the-liberty-movemen>

https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Atlas_Network

"In a May 1998 fundraising pitch to tobacco giant [Phillip Morris](#), Chaufen explained that keeping its think tanks off the dole of political parties, universities, government agencies and lobbies "helps keep their ideas and recommendations untainted by real or perceived political or organizational ties" and "helps protect them (and us) against potential scandal. Think tanks tied to politicians and parties can easily become instruments of corruption. Indeed, in several instances, public officials have enriched themselves and their allies through the 'think tanks' they control," Chaufen wrote.^{[1] [26]} In 1995 alone Philip

Morris contributed \$475,000 to Atlas according to an internal budget document released as part of the settlement of the legal action brought by several U.S. states' attorneys general. In 1997, despite a tight budget, PM staff recommended Atlas receive \$150,000 because of the organization's ability, through its events and public advocacy work, to "positively impact the regulatory environment, particularly in Latin America." The think tanks fostered by Atlas, PM staff wrote approvingly, results in "an improved operating environment for all PM businesses."

Australia Political will against the tobacco industry

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6326901/Blow-e-cigarette-smokers-new-crackdown-vaping-launched-cigarettes-hit-40-packet.html>

Blow for e-cigarette smokers as new crackdown on vaping is launched – and cigarettes hit AUD \$40 a packet (HKD 225)

- South Australia introduces toughest regulations on e-cigarettes in the country
- Amendments will ban the sale of all e-cigarette products in South Australia
- The move has been slammed as protection for big tobacco companies
- The price of cigarettes will increase by 12.5 per cent in September 2019
- Smokers also need to prepare for another 12.5 per cent rise in 2020
- That amounts to a 25 per cent increase in the cost of smokes within the next two years

New Zealand Political Will against the tobacco Industry

<https://www.expatisan.com/price/cigarettes/auckland> Marlboro NZ\$ 28

NZ\$ 28 = HKD 149.5

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12180277

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/cigarette-packs-hit-nearly-40-each-nz-rings-in-new-year-tax-hike>

NZ tobacco – NZ\$ 40 per pack (HKD 213)

Ireland Political will against the tobacco industry

<https://www.tesco.ie/groceries/product/browse/default.aspx?N=4294952459&Ne=4294954028>



[Marlboro Gold King Size 20 Pack](#)

€12.70 (€0.64/each) (HKD 114) Tesco Ireland Add to basket

New York -Political will of the mayor against the tobacco industry

<https://www.expatisan.com/price/cigarettes/new-york-city>

Marlboro pack costs USD 14 (HKD 109)

UK Political will against the tobacco industry

<https://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/how-much-smokers-take-hit-13942557>

£10.40. (HKD 105)

How much? Smokers take a hit as cost of pack for 20 soars after budget

Price hike is the second after date of budget was changed from spring to autumn - and it's hitting smokers hard

Bylan Robson The price of cigarettes has gone up again after Thursday's budget.

The average price of a pack of 20 cigarettes was £9.91 before Philip Hammond's speech,

But now it's an extra 49p - making the average price of a pack of 20 £10.40. (HKD 105)

For a 20 a day smoker, that adds up to an extra £178.85 a year.

The price of cigarettes has increased following the Autumn Budget
And you can't stock up at the old price because the new rate came into force on Thursday night.
The UK is already the most costly place in Europe to be a smoker.
It was the second increase in a year following the switch from a spring budget to an autumn budget.
The annual financial statement is usually the Chancellor's chance to increase the amount of tax raised from sales of tobacco, alcohol, fuel and other products - and successive chancellors have made full use of their tax-raising powers.
In his last Budget, Philip Hammond announced the end of the spring Budget - and a move to an autumn Budget.
As a result, we're in the odd situation of having two Budgets in one year.
The six new smoking laws start on May 20 - here's how the changes affect you
The annual escalator - which works out how much the tax on things like cigarettes go up every year - has already been applied this year. It was announced in March and took effect in May.
But buried in the text of the Budget is the revelation that the tax increase will be applied AGAIN.
The price of cigarettes and cigars goes up every year by two percentage points above the rate of inflation.

Budget 2018

On rolling tobacco it's an extra one percentage point on top of that.
Currently inflation in the UK stands at 2.9% - so the **total increase will be 4.9% on a cigarettes and 5.9% on tobacco.**
Health experts say there is only way to avoid the increase - and that is to cut down on smoking or stop all together.
The price increases are not the only bad news for smokers this year.
In May there was a raft of new laws aimed at cutting the number of smokers including banning packs of ten and the phasing out of menthol cigarettes which are seen as a introduction to smoking

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/money/7607401/budget-2018-cigarettes-tobacco-tax/>

UK Budget 2018 Cigarettes to increase from 9.91 to 10.24
A packet of Marlboro in UK will now cost **£10.24 – 10.40**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-46017125>

Alcohol, tobacco and fuel

Beer, cider and spirits duties to be frozen

Cost of a bottle of wine duty to rise by 8p, **in line with inflation**, in February

Tobacco duty will continue to rise by inflation plus 2%

A packet of 20 cigarettes will go up by 33p at 18.00 GMT

A ten gram pack of cigars goes up by 17p.

Fuel duty to be frozen for ninth year in a row

Remote Gaming Duty to increase to 21% for online gambling on "games of chance" from 2019



Enforce the Report Recommendations – follow up

Singapore Anti-smoking measures – Their Government shows political will

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/orchard-road-to-be-smoke-free-zone-january-2019-10977260>

Orchard Road to be smoke-free zone from January 2019



Shoppers walking along Orchard Road. (File photo: Calvin Oh)
28 Nov 2018 06:34PM (Updated: 28 Nov 2018 07:28PM)

SINGAPORE: Smokers will be prohibited from lighting up in public within the Orchard Road area from January next year. The National Environment Agency (NEA) said in a media release on Wednesday (Nov 28) that the Orchard Road precinct will be designated a No Smoking Zone from Jan 1, 2019.

NEA added that smoking will only be allowed at Designated Smoking Areas (DSAs) while smoking corners at food and retail establishments within the No Smoking Zone will also be rescinded by Dec 31, 2018. About 40 DSAs have been set up (see list below).

The transformation of Orchard Road into a [smoke-free zone](#) was originally scheduled to start in July 2018. One month before the implementation, NEA announced that the smoking prohibition will be [delayed to the end of the year](#) to give businesses more time to prepare for the transition.

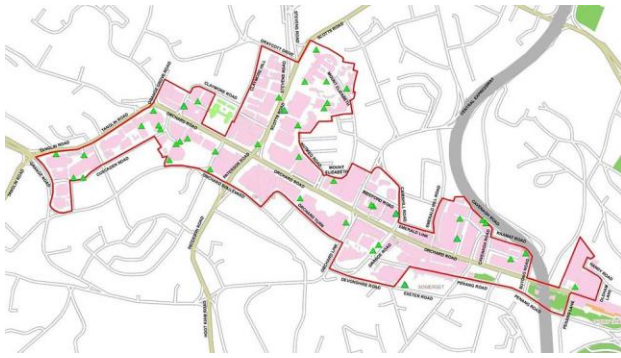
RAISING AWARENESS

NEA said that it will be ramping up publicity on the No Smoking Zone in the next few weeks to raise awareness about the smoking prohibition.

"Community volunteers have already started engaging the public within the precinct. Brochures listing the locations of DSAs will be made available at shopping malls and point-of-sales of tobacco products," NEA said.

Advertisements will be put up at Orchard, Somerset, Newton and Dhoby Ghaut MRT stations, as well as selected bus stops and on buses that ply Orchard Road. Signs will also be displayed at lamp posts and dustbins in the area while online mobile banners will be used to extend the campaign reach.

[READ: Singapore to introduce plain packaging, larger graphic warnings for all tobacco products](#)



No Smoking Zone at Orchard Road precinct. (Image: National Environment Agency)

To keep foreign visitors informed of the No Smoking Zone, NEA and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) have incorporated relevant information on STB's Visit Singapore webpage.

Inbound travellers will be alerted through publicity materials displayed at the points of entry such as Changi Airport, Singapore Cruise Centre and Marina Bay Cruise Centre. Travel agents, tourist guides and hotels will also be updated so that they can advise tourists.

SMOKING CORNERS

Smoking corners at food retail establishments within the No Smoking Zone will be **rescinded by Dec 31, 2018**.

NEA said that it has stopped accepting applications for new smoking corners in food retail establishments islandwide since June 2017. "Existing smoking corners that had already been approved and which reside outside the No Smoking Zone would be allowed to remain until the current licences of the food retail establishments are terminated or cancelled. No new smoking corners will be approved for subsequent licensees of the same premises," NEA added.

[READ: NEA will use cameras to detect illegal smoking - here's how it could work](#)

ENFORCEMENT ACTION FROM APR 1

NEA said that it will take an advisory approach during the first three months of the roll-out and those caught smoking in public areas within the smoke-free zone will receive verbal warnings. However, those caught smoking in existing smoking prohibited areas, such as covered linkways and bus stops, will continue to face enforcement action. Those who repeatedly flout the law in spite of prior warnings may also be issued a fine.

The new rules will be enforced for all who smoke in public areas within the smoke-free zone from Apr 1.

Operators and managers of premises where smoking is prohibited are also **required by law to request smokers to stop smoking or to direct them to the nearest DSA if they wish to continue smoking**. "NEA takes a strict stance against smokers who flout the law and our officers conduct regular enforcement at smoking prohibited areas," the agency said.

In 2017, about **22,000 tickets** were issued for smoking in prohibited areas. (versus less than 9,000 in Hong Kong)

Designated Smoking Areas

- Behind Somerset MRT Station

- Cathay Cineleisure Orchard (2)
- Concorde Hotel and Shopping Mall (2)
- Cuppage Terrace
- DFS Galleria
- Far East Plaza
- Far East Shopping Centre
- Forum The Shopping Mall
- Four Seasons Hotel (2)
- Goodwood Park Hotel (3)
- Grand Hyatt Singapore
- Hilton Singapore
- Holiday Inn Express Singapore Orchard Road (2)
- Holiday Inn Singapore Orchard City Centre (2)
- Ming Arcade
- Ngee Ann City (2)
- Orchard Rendezvous Hotel (2)
- Orchard Towers (2)
- Plaza Singapura
- Shaw House
- Tang Plaza
- Tanglin Mall
- Tanglin Place
- Tanglin Shopping Centre
- The Centrepoint
- The Heeren
- The Paragon
- The Quincy Hotel
- The Regent Singapore (2)
- Wheelock Place
- York Hotel (2)

Source: CNA/zi(hm)

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/ban-on-display-of-tobacco-products-to-take-effect-on-aug-1-as-9041262>

Singapore Tobacco POS Display Ban (all tobacco retailers are licensed)

Ban on display of tobacco products to take effect on Aug 1 as grace period ends



18 July 2017

SINGAPORE: After a one-year grace period, the **ban on displaying cigarettes and other tobacco products** in stores will take effect on Aug 1, the Ministry of Health (MOH) reminded in a news release on Tuesday (Jul 18).

Retailers must keep the tobacco products in plain, undecorated storage devices, and out of customers' direct line of sight.

"Existing display cabinets can be modified to one that is permanently fixed, self-closing and opaque," said the ministry. "Alternatively, new storage units that meet the same requirements can also be constructed."

Laws to ban the display of tobacco products were **passed in Parliament last March**, under amendments to the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Bill. It is part of MOH's efforts to discourage smoking, particularly among younger people in Singapore.

Under the regulations, the point of sale will remain fixed at the cashier, to reduce the accessibility of cigarettes to youths and non-smokers.

In addition, a text-only price list based on a template prescribed by MOH may be shown to customers only at their request.

Retailers convicted of flouting the ban face a maximum jail term of six months, a fine of up to S\$10,000, or both. The penalties are double for repeat offenders.

Source: CNA/gs

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/singapore-tobacco-plain-packaging-larger-graphic-warnings-10883806>

Singapore 31 October 2018

Singapore to introduce plain packaging, larger graphic warnings for all tobacco products



SINGAPORE: All tobacco products in Singapore may soon be required to be sold in plain packaging with graphic health warnings covering at least 75 per cent of the packet.

This comes after the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced on Wednesday (Oct 31) that it will introduce standardised packaging for such products sold in Singapore, as part of ongoing efforts for a tobacco-free society.

The proposed measures will apply to all tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigarillos, cigars, beedies (thin cigarettes wrapped in a leaf), ang hoon (loose tobacco leaves) and other roll-your-own tobacco products, MOH said.

The ministry intends to table the proposed amendments to current laws early next year. If enacted, the new measures may take effect from 2020.

A transition period - between when manufacturers have to produce standardised packs and when retailers must sell all products in standardised packs - will be provided to allow a sell-through of old stock and to ease the implementation burden on the tobacco industry, it said.

"Tobacco use is a major cause of ill-health and death in Singapore," MOH said in a press release.

"More than 2,000 Singaporeans die prematurely from smoking-related diseases annually. Daily smoking prevalence amongst Singaporeans has been fluctuating since 2004, with no clear pattern of sustained decline," it added.

NO LOGOS, COLOURS

Under the proposal, the new measures will see all logos, colours, brand images and promotional information removed from the packaging of tobacco products, which can be sold only in a standardised colour and a matt finish.

Brand names and product names will be allowed, but only in a standard colour and font style.

Tobacco products must also display mandatory graphic health warning covering at least 75 per cent of the packet's surface, up from the current 50 per cent.

MOH proposed standardised layouts for tobacco products also dictate that the size, shape and material of all retail packages are standardised and open according to a standard format.

The glue used in the packaging will have to be transparent and unscented and all packaging inserts and lining will have to be in a standardised colour.

Australia, France and the United Kingdom have already introduced similar measures.

"Evidence from numerous studies, including from Australia following the implementation of standardised packaging, demonstrated that standardised packaging reduced the appeal of both the packaging and the product," MOH said in a summary of the Government's final assessment.

"It is the Government's assessment that changes in consumption can occur as a result of reducing overall product appeal," it added.

NEW RULES WILL COMPLEMENT EXISTING MEASURES

MOH said that the proposed changes – which come after an extensive review of international and local studies as well as three rounds of public consultations – are necessary to "achieve sustained declines in the overall smoking rates" in Singapore.

The proposed changes are likely to help it achieve five health objectives: Reduce the attractiveness of tobacco products; eliminate the effects of tobacco packaging as a form of advertising and promotion; reduce the ability of tobacco packaging to mislead about the harmful effects of smoking; increase the noticeability and effectiveness of graphic health warnings; and better inform smokers and non-smokers of the risks associated with tobacco use.

The proposed changes will also complement existing tobacco control measures in Singapore and discourage non-smokers from picking up the habit, encourage smokers to quit, and encourage Singaporeans to adopt a tobacco-free lifestyle, MOH said.

"It will operate alongside other tobacco control measures, including education, taxation, smoking cessation programmes, bans on tobacco advertising, the point-of-sale display ban and the minimum legal age for tobacco," it said.

Singapore has taken multiple steps to curb smoking and the public's exposure to second-hand smoke.

In February, the Government imposed a 10 per cent hike in tobacco excise duty, resulting in [excise duties on cigarettes](#) increasing to 42.7 cents per stick, up from 38.8 cents previously.

In March 2016, laws were passed to [prohibit stores from displaying tobacco products](#).

To protect the public from second-hand smoke, the Government in October last year expanded an existing smoking ban to the [outdoor areas of universities and private schools and in private-hire cars](#).

Steps are also in place to transform Orchard Road into [a smoke-free zone by the end of this year](#).

PLAIN PACKAGING FIRST ADOPTED IN AUSTRALIA

There is growing momentum worldwide for plain packaging with a report by the Canadian Cancer Society in October showing that there are now 25 countries and territories moving forward with plain packaging, with nine having adopted the measure and 16 working on it.

However, the movement has also seen some opposition. In 2017, new rules for "plain packaging" in Malaysia and pictorial health warnings for cigarette packs in Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia were either [stopped or delayed](#).

[Australia was the first country to adopt the measures in 2012](#), banning logos and distinctively coloured cigarette packaging in favour of drab olive packets with brand names printed in small standardised fonts. Since then, countries such as France, the United Kingdom, Norway, Ireland, New Zealand and Hungary have also introduced similar measures.

Another seven countries have passed laws yet to be implemented, namely **Burkina Faso, Canada, Georgia, Romania, Slovenia, Thailand and Uruguay**.

[READ: New Zealand backs plain packaging for cigarettes](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday congratulated Singapore on the proposed changes, saying that the move "affirms (Singapore's) status as a global leader on tobacco control and protection of health".

"WHO recommends tobacco plain packaging as part of a comprehensive approach to tobacco control under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the organisation's director-general.

"Plain packaging reduces demand for tobacco products by reducing the attractiveness of tobacco products, restricting use of the pack as a form of advertising and promotion, limiting misleading packaging and increasing the effectiveness of health warnings," he added.

Source: CNA/ic(aj)

<https://www.expatisan.com/price/cigarettes/singapore>

Marlboro S\$14 per pack = **HKD 82 in Singapore** and all retailers are licensed and inspected with test buys

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/tobacco-licences-retailers-suspended-selling-cigarettes-minors-10141754>

Zero Duty Free Tobacco Allowance in Singapore

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/how-to-stay-out-of-trouble-in-singapore-1458521>

Apathy - Hong Kong Government repeated absence of Political Will - Tobacco Control Gone Backwards

