

Vaping: Mexico bans e-cigarettes imports

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By a presidential decree published on the **Federal Official Gazette (DOF)**, from Thursday, **February 20**, the import of **electronic cigarettes** is forbidden to protect the Mexican population from **heavy metals** and other substances contained in them, as reported by the **Health and Economy Ministries**.

This, given the increase of patients with lung damage related to the use of **electronic cigarettes** used for the so-called vaping or the inhaling of **nicotine** and other chemical substances.

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Through the **DOF**, it was asserted that there are “**over 200 registered cases** of patients with **serious lung damage**, related to the use of the **electronic cigarette**, mainly teenagers and young adults, in at least 25 states.”

Actualmente se han comercializado productos de nicotina y tabaco, novedosos y emergentes que emulan o imitan la conducta de fumar y que son referidos como de bajo riesgo. Estos productos son potencialmente nocivos para la salud de menores, adultos mayores y mujeres embarazadas. pic.twitter.com/gTsS1YqqFK

— CONADIC (@CONADICmx) [February 20, 2020](#)

Since **May 2008**, the sale of **electronic cigarettes** is forbidden in **Mexico**. Nonetheless, the agencies said that it requires the harmonization of a regulatory framework to prevent the **illegal sale** of this kind of product.

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has said that the **Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)**, best known as electronic cigarettes or vaping devices, the **Electronic Non-Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENNDS)**, and the **Alternative Nicotine Delivery Systems (ANDS)** can contain levels of toxic substances and carcinogenic compounds, in occasions higher than traditional cigarettes.

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“The **WHO** has stressed that the devices constitute a **risk** for people around who are exposed to the spray exhaled by the users of the devices because the solutions and the mixes used in them are usually dissolved in **propylene glycol** or **glycerine**, elements that harm the **heart** and the **lungs**,” they assert.

In Mexico, **938,000 teenagers** have tried at least once an electronic cigarette, out of which **160,000** use it on a regular basis according to the **ENCODAT 2016-2017**; this information alerted the federal government since it represents the entrance door to **nicotine addiction**.

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E-CIGARETTE BAN & REGULATION: GLOBAL STATUS AS OF JUNE 2019

42 COUNTRIES¹ BAN SELLING OF E-CIGARETTES

The sale/distribution of e-cigarettes² is banned in the following forty-two (42) countries: *Antigua and Barbuda**, *Argentina*, *Australia*, *Bahrain*, *Barbados***, *Bhutan*, *Brazil*, *Brunei Darussalam*, *Cambodia*, *Colombia*, *Costa Rica***, *Egypt**, *Ethiopia**, *Gambia*, *Iran*, *Japan*, *Jordan*, *N Korea*, *Kuwait*, *Laos*, *Lebanon*, *Mauritius*, *Mexico*, *Nepal*, *Nicaragua*, *Oman*, *Panama*, *Qatar*, *Saudi Arabia*, *Seychelles*, *Singapore*, *Sri Lanka*, *Suriname*, *Syria*, *Thailand*, *Timor-Leste*, *Turkmenistan*, *Uganda*, *United Arab Emirates*, *Uruguay*, *Vatican City*, *Venezuela**.

56 COUNTRIES ALLOW SELLING OF E-CIGARETTES BUT PROVIDE SALES RESTRICTIONS/REGULATIONS

In fifty-six (56) countries that permit the sale of e-cigarettes, there are regulations around sale such as cross-border sale restrictions/regulations, restrictions in venues where they can be sold, access restrictions, or other restrictions:

Austria, *Belgium*, *Bulgaria*, *China*, *Canada*, *Croatia*, *Cyprus*, *Czech Republic*, *Denmark*, *Ecuador*, *Estonia*, *Fiji*, *Finland*, *France*, *Georgia*, *Germany*, *Greece*, *Honduras*, *Hungary*, *Iceland*, *India³*, *Indonesia*, *Ireland*, *Italy*, *Ivory Coast*, *Jamaica^{4**}*, *S. Korea*, *Latvia*, *Liechtenstein*, *Lithuania*, *Luxembourg*, *Malaysia*, *Maldives*, *Malta*, *Moldova*, *Netherlands*, *New Zealand*, *Norway*, *Palau*, *Philippines*, *Poland*, *Portugal*, *Romania*, *San Marino*, *Slovakia*, *Slovenia*, *Spain*, *Sweden*, *Switzerland^{5**}*, *Tajikistan*, *Togo*, *Turkey*, *Ukraine*, *United Kingdom*, *Vietnam*.

30 COUNTRIES REGULATE NICOTINE (and/or OTHER) CONTENT/S OF E-CIGARETTES

Of the fifty-four countries allowing the sale of e-cigarettes, at least thirty (30) countries are known to regulate the amount (concentration/volume) of nicotine in e-liquids – in the EU, the threshold concentration is 20mg/mL “AND” do not permit the use of ingredients (other than nicotine) that pose a risk to human health in heated or unheated form in nicotine-containing e-liquid (“OR” for Canada and Israel):

Austria, *Belgium*, *Bulgaria*, *Canada*, *Croatia*, *Cyprus*, *Czech Republic*, *Denmark*, *Estonia*, *Finland*, *France*, *Germany*, *Greece*, *Ireland*, *Israel*, *Italy*, *Latvia*, *Lithuania*, *Luxembourg*, *Malta*, *Moldova*, *Netherlands*, *Poland*, *Portugal*, *Romania*, *Slovakia*, *Slovenia*, *Spain*, *Sweden*, and *United Kingdom*.

OTHERS: There is no reliable information available in other countries and are hence, not listed here. E-cigarettes are found/ likely permitted in many African/ Latin American countries, although in many cases, there are no specific laws allowing/ disallowing the same.

Sources:

1. [Global Tobacco Control website: https://www.globaltobaccocontrol.org/e-cigarette/domain-classification](https://www.globaltobaccocontrol.org/e-cigarette/domain-classification)
2. Information provided by country contacts

* Included based on information from *No Fire, No Smoke: The Global State of Harm Reduction, 2018 (GSTHR)*
**Conflicting information found

¹ Refers to sovereign states.

² Five (5) countries specifically prohibit the sale of nicotine-containing e-cigarettes: *Australia*, *Costa Rica***, *Japan*, *Mexico*, *Sri Lanka*.

³ India is currently contemplating a ban on e-cigarettes and several of its states have initiated the same.

⁴ Importation is not allowed without permit from the health ministry, use in public places is banned.

⁵ A ban on sale was overturned by the courts as of Apr 2018 No information regarding appeal.