

# Turkey bans import of e-cigarette products

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ANKARA



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Turkey on Feb. 25 banned the import of e-cigarettes and related products, announcing the decision in the country's Official Gazette.

The ban covers all kinds of products used for electronic smoking, including e-cigarette devices, accessories, spare parts and solutions.

It also applies to e-cigarette products that use heating or incineration, including electronic hookahs, regardless of nicotine content.

In 2019, a total of 17.6 million smuggled cigarette packages and 140,000 electronic cigarettes were seized at the border gates, the trade minister said on Feb. 25.

"We will not give passage to illegal trafficking of cigarette and electronic cigarette," said Ruhsar Pekcan on her Twitter account.

"I wish the best for our country with this serious measure for the good health of our fellow citizens," she said.

The Turkish Health Ministry had banned the sale of electronic cigarette products in recent months.

New estimates from the Tobacco Atlas, a leading resource on tobacco use and its impact on world health, indicate that about 14.5 million adults and 252,000 children in Turkey use tobacco every day.

About 83,100 people die from tobacco-caused diseases in Turkey each year, according to the Tobacco Atlas, an initiative supported by the American Cancer Society and the World Lung Foundation.



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

### 42 COUNTRIES<sup>1</sup> BAN SELLING OF E-CIGARETTES

The sale/distribution of e-cigarettes<sup>2</sup> 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*, *India<sup>3</sup>*, *Indonesia*, *Ireland*, *Italy*, *Ivory Coast*, *Jamaica<sup>4\*\*</sup>*, *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<sup>5\*\*</sup>*, *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

<sup>1</sup> Refers to sovereign states.

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

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

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

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