

Smokefree England factsheet

SMOKEFREE LEGISLATION – AN OVERVIEW

From **6am on Sunday, 1 July 2007**, virtually all workplaces and substantially enclosed public areas in England will become smokefree by law. A smokefree England will ensure a healthier environment, so everyone can socialise, relax, travel, shop and work free from secondhand smoke.

The specific detail of how smokefree legislation will be implemented will be within smokefree regulations, to be made under powers within the smokefree parts of the Health Act 2006.

The Government has now made or published the final draft versions of the five sets of smokefree regulations that are intended to be made under the Health Act 2006. Once the regulations are approved, guidance will be produced and made widely available.

This factsheet sets out the main elements of the proposed regulations. Please see the 'Draft Smokefree Regulations' for further details of the contents and the current status of these regulations.

Important note: This fact sheet is intended as a guide, and has no legal basis. Most of the sets of regulations are only in the final draft form, and two sets will need to be approved by Parliament before they can be made law. The Department of Health and Smokefree England will make guidelines freely available that set out the finalised detail of smokefree legislation once all regulations have been made. Guidelines are expected to be available around Easter.

You can register to receive guidelines and other updates from Smokefree England now on the Smokefree England website at smokefreeengland.co.uk or by calling the Smokefree England Information Line on freephone 0800 169 169 7.

Which places will be Smokefree?

Virtually all enclosed and substantially enclosed public places and workplaces in England will become smokefree. This will include offices, factories, shops, pubs, bars, restaurants, membership clubs, public transport and work vehicles that are used by more than one person.

The law will also mean that indoor workplace smoking rooms will disappear. So anyone wishing to smoke will have to go outside instead.

Showing you're smokefree

From 1 July 2007, all smokefree premises and vehicles will be required to display no-smoking signs. Guidance on signage and specifications for where signs will need to be displayed will be made available once the regulations have been finalised.

The Department of Health will make no-smoking signs freely available in the lead up to the new law coming into place.

Enforcing Smokefree

Those who do not comply with the law may be liable to a fine or prosecution for the offences for:

- smoking in a smokefree place or vehicle
- failing to display a no-smoking sign
- allowing smoking in a smokefree place or vehicle

The levels of fines for these offences will be set out in regulations.

Becoming Smokefree

Once the details of regulations have been finalised, businesses will be supplied with information and resources to help them to prepare for the new laws, and become smokefree in their enclosed parts. Business can register now to receive further information on going smokefree, including a copy of the final guidance. The information will be sent by post to businesses across the country as soon as it is available.

To register businesses should call the Smokefree England Information Line on freephone **0800 169 169 7** or visit www.smokefreeengland.co.uk.

Stop smoking support for staff

In the lead up to the implementation of smokefree legislation, many smokers may think about quitting. The NHS can work with businesses that would like to support their employees who want to give up smoking, and offers the following free quitting services:

- **Local NHS Stop Smoking Services** – call the NHS Smoking Helpline free on **0800 169 0 169** to find your local service. Smokers who want to quit can also find details of their local NHS Stop Smoking Service by visiting www.gosmokefree.co.uk, texting 'GIVE UP' and their full postcode to **88088** or ask at their local GP practice, pharmacy or hospital
- **The NHS Smoking Helpline** - you can speak to a specialist adviser by calling **0800 169 0 169** (lines are open daily from 7am to 11pm)
- **www.gosmokefree.co.uk** – an online resource for all the advice, information and support you need to stop and stay stopped
- **Together** – This support programme is free to join, and is designed to help you stop smoking using both medical research as well as insights from ex-smokers. For more information call the NHS Smoking Helpline on **0800 169 0 169** or visit www.gosmokefree.co.uk