

TOBACCO PRODUCTS (CIRCULATION REQUIREMENTS)

SCOPE

The requirements for placing tobacco products on the market (trade) are regulated by the Law on the Handling of Tobacco Products, Tobacco Substitute Products, Herbal Products for Smoking, Electronic Smoking Devices and Their Liquids (hereinafter - Tobacco Law).

LATVIAN REGULATIONS

- [Tobacco Law](#)
- Cabinet Regulation No. 440, adopted July 5, 2016 "[Procedures for Providing and Processing Information Regarding Tobacco Products, Herbal Products for Smoking, Electronic Cigarettes, and Their Refill Containers](#)"
- Cabinet Regulation No. 306, adopted May 17, 2016 "[Regulations Regarding the Requirements for Health Warnings to be Placed on Packaging](#)"
- Cabinet Regulation No. 24, adopted January 11, 2022 "[Price list of paid services of Health Inspectorate](#)"

PRIOR AUTHORISATION

Before placing tobacco products on the market in Latvia, it is necessary to obtain a special permit (license) issued by the State Revenue Service (hereinafter - SRS). According to the special permit (license) referred to in paragraph 11 of the Cabinet Regulation No. 662, adopted August 30, 2005 "[Procedures for the Circulation of Excisable Goods](#)", the special permit (license) is issued for tobacco products wholesale, retail, registered consignee activity and registered consignor activity.

Responsible authority:

State Revenue Service

Website address: www.vid.gov.lv

Phone: +371 67120000

E-mail: vid@vid.gov.lv

Manufacturers and importers provide the Health Inspectorate with information on all tobacco products that are planned to be placed on the market or whose composition is changed. Manufacturers and importers pay for the processing of the provided information on tobacco products in accordance with the price list of the Health Inspectorate's fee services. The amount of information to be provided on tobacco products, the order in which manufacturers and importers provide such information, as well as the requirements for data processing, analysis, storage and publication are determined in Cabinet Regulation No. 440, adopted July 5, 2016 "[Procedures for Providing and Processing Information Regarding Tobacco Products, Herbal Products for Smoking, Electronic Cigarettes, and Their Refill Containers](#)".

Newly introduced tobacco products are reported to the Health Inspectorate six months before they are put on the market in Latvia.

Responsible authority:

Health Inspectorate

Website address: www.vi.gov.lv

Phone: +371 67081600

E-mail: vi@vi.gov.lv

CONTACTS

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATIONS

Ministry of Health

Web: www.vm.gov.lv

Phone: +371 67876000

MARKET SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

Health Inspectorate

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Phone: +371 67081600

Email: vi@vi.gov.lv

MAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR ECONOMIC OPERATORS

Legal terms

Types of tobacco products are defined in Directive 2014/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (hereinafter - the Tobacco Directive) and the Tobacco Law. According to the Tobacco Law, all tobacco products except chewing tobacco, snuff; all oral tobacco products are defined as smoking tobacco products.

Tobacco product - a product that can be consumed and which consists, at least partially, of tobacco, whether or not genetically modified.

Smokeless tobacco product - a tobacco product, the use of which is not related to the burning process; smokeless tobacco product intended only for chewing, — chewing tobacco; a smokeless tobacco product that can be used through the nose, snuff; all tobacco products intended for oral use, which are wholly or partly made from tobacco and are available in the form of powder or fine granules or in any combination of these types, especially such products packaged in sachets or porous bags, excluding products intended for inhalation or chewing, - tobacco for oral use.

Newly Introduced Tobacco Product - A smokeless tobacco product or tobacco product intended for smoking that does not fall into any of the following categories - cigarettes, rolling tobacco, pipe tobacco, hookah tobacco, cigars, cigarillos, chewing tobacco, snuff or oral tobacco - and placed on the market after May 19, 2014.

Heated tobacco product - A newly introduced tobacco product that uses a heating process to release emissions containing nicotine and other chemicals that are inhaled by the consumer, and which, depending on its characteristics, is either a smokeless tobacco product or a smoking tobacco product.

Tobacco products for smoking - tobacco products other than smokeless tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigarillos, cigars, tobacco products that can be consumed by burning or heating and tobacco intended only for use in a pipe (pipe tobacco), tobacco that can be used by consumers or retail outlets to make cigarettes (rolling tobacco), a tobacco product that can be consumed using a hookah (hookah tobacco). If the product can be used both in hookahs and as rolling tobacco, it is considered rolling tobacco.

Restrictions on the sale of tobacco products

1. It is prohibited to place on the market:

- 1.1. snuff and chewing tobacco;
- 1.2. tobacco products for oral use;
- 1.3. tobacco products and newly introduced tobacco products for which information has not been submitted in accordance with the first and second parts of Section 5 of the Tobacco Law and payment for the processing of the provided information has not been made in accordance with the price list of the Health Inspection fee services;
- 1.4. tobacco products newly introduced tobacco products that do not meet the requirements of the Tobacco Law;
- 1.5. cigarette packaging units containing less than 20 cigarettes;
- 1.6. rolling tobacco packaging units containing less than 30 grams of tobacco;

2. It is prohibited to place tobacco products on the market if:

- 2.1. they contain vitamins or other additives that give the impression that the tobacco product is beneficial to health or reduces health risks;
- 2.2. they contain caffeine or taurine or other additives and stimulant compounds associated with energy and vitality;
- 2.3. they contain additives that affect the color of emissions;
- 2.4. tobacco products intended for smoking contain additives that facilitate inhalation or nicotine intake, including menthol, its analogues and geraniol;

- 2.5. they contain additives that, when unburnt, have carcinogenic, mutagenic and reproductive system toxic properties;
 - 2.6. they are not subject to the regulation of the European Parliament and the Council of December 18, 2006 no. 1907/2006 concerning the provisions of the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH);
 - 2.7. they contain additives in such an amount that the toxic or addictive effects of the tobacco product or its inherent carcinogenic, mutagenic and reproductive toxic properties are significantly or measurably increased during the use of these products, and this is scientifically justified.
3. It is forbidden to put cigarettes on the market if:
- 3.1. the maximum level of tar emissions in them exceeds 10 milligrams per cigarette;
 - 3.2. the maximum level of nicotine emissions in them exceeds one milligram per cigarette;
 - 3.3. the maximum level of carbon monoxide emissions in them exceeds 10 milligrams per cigarette;
 - 3.4. they do not meet the combustion and fire safety requirements for self-extinguishing cigarettes.
4. It is prohibited to put cigarettes, rolling tobacco and heated tobacco products on the market:
- 4.1. with a characteristic aroma. The prohibition does not apply to additives that are essential for the production of cigarettes, rolling tobacco and heated tobacco products, unless these additives do not create a characteristic aroma and do not significantly or measurably increase the product's ability to cause addiction, toxicity or carcinogenic, mutagenic and reproductive system toxic properties;
 - 4.2. whose filters, papers, packaging, capsules contain flavorings or any technical elements that can change the smell or taste of the respective tobacco products or the intensity of their smoke. Filters, papers or capsules do not contain tobacco or nicotine.

The presentation of tobacco products and the appearance and content of packaging units

1. It is prohibited to place such elements (for example, inscriptions, symbols, names, trademarks, graphic or other signs) on the packaging unit of tobacco products, on any outer packaging and on the label of the tobacco product itself, which:
 - 1.1. promotes a tobacco product or promotes its consumption, creating a false impression about the characteristics, health effects, hazards or emissions of the tobacco product in question;
 - 1.2. includes information on the nicotine, tar and carbon monoxide content of the tobacco product;
 - 1.3. suggests that a particular tobacco product is safer than others, or that it tends to reduce the effects of certain harmful components of smoke, or that it increases energy and vitality, or that it has medicinal, rejuvenating, natural, organic properties, or that it is otherwise beneficial affects health or lifestyle;
 - 1.4. indicates the taste, smell, any flavorings and other additives or their absence;
 - 1.5. resembles a food or cosmetic product;
 - 1.6. suggests that the particular tobacco product has better biodegradability or other environmentally beneficial properties.
2. It is prohibited to place such elements (for example, inscriptions, symbols, names, trademarks, graphic or other signs) on the packaging units of tobacco products and any external packaging that create the impression of economic benefit, for example, including discount coupons, offering discounts, information about free distribution, an offer to buy several packaging units at a lower price and other similar offers.
3. The cigarette packaging unit shall have the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped, and this packaging unit shall be made of cardboard or soft material with an opening that cannot be closed or resealed after the first opening, except for a hinged top cap and a hinged cap attached to the

side. For packets with a flip-top cap and a side-mounted flip-top cap, it is only attached to the back of the package unit.

4. Rolling tobacco packaging units have a rectangular parallelepiped, cylindrical or bag shape.

5. The following is prohibited on the packaging unit of tobacco products and any outer packaging:

5.1. depict symbols of the Latvian state;

5.2. depict natural persons, except those natural persons who are depicted on combined warnings;

5.3. use animated characters.

6. The following health warnings shall be printed on each packaging unit of a smoking tobacco product and on any outer packaging:

6.1. the general warning: "Smēķēšana nogalina — atmetiet tagad!";

6.2. informative inscription: "Tabakas dūmos ir vairāk nekā 70 vielu, kas izraisa vēzi";

6.3. combined warning on health effects, supplemented with the following information on quitting smoking: "Lūdz palīdzību! 67037333; www.spkc.gov.lv".

7. The following health warning is printed on each package of smokeless tobacco products and on any outer packaging: "Šis tabakas izstrādājums kaitē Jūsu veselībai un rada atkarību".

- The requirements for designing and placing health warnings on packaging are determined by Cabinet Regulation No. 306, adopted May 17, 2016 "[Regulations Regarding the Requirements for Health Warnings to be Placed on Packaging](#)".

Order of circulation of tobacco products

1. Referring to Article 8 of the Tobacco Law, tobacco products have the same restrictions as electronic smoking devices and refill tanks, herbal smoking products and tobacco substitute products.

2. It is prohibited to sell tobacco products to minors, but from January 1, 2025, to persons under 20 years of age.

3. It is prohibited to sell tobacco products to the consumer and the consumer is prohibited to purchase them using distance communication means (distance contract, online link, website, mobile application, electronic mail, telephone, TV store, catalog, etc.) including outside a member state of the European Union or National territories of the European Economic Area.

It is prohibited to place tobacco products and the trademarks of these products in retail outlets in such a way that customers can see these products or their trademarks. The ban does not apply to specialized retail outlets for tobacco products, if these retail outlets are located in constructively separated premises with a separate entrance and tobacco products and the trademarks of these products are not visible outside the relevant retail outlet.

Additional information: <https://www.vi.gov.lv/lv/tabakas-izstradajumi-augu-smekesanas-produkti-elektroniskas-smekesanas-ierices-un-uzpildes-skidrumi>