



**Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

Ministry of Health

**TOBACCO CONTROL UNIT**

#4-6 Queen's Park East, Port of Spain 101002

TCU 001-2024

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **IMPORT AND SALE OF ILLICIT TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

The Ministry of Health wishes to remind the public that the import and sale of tobacco products which are unlicensed/illicit tobacco products is strictly prohibited. Illicit tobacco products should **NOT** be offered for sale or purchased by any business entity/member of the public or consumed by the public.

As at the end of the reporting year 2023, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) who are authorised officers under the Tobacco Control Act, Chapter 30:04 seized over 331,156 unlicensed/illicit tobacco products from various business establishments and initiated six (6) matters before the courts. One (1) of these matters has been concluded with the imposition of a fine and the other five (5) are currently pending.

**"Tobacco product"** means any product entirely or partly made from the leaf of the tobacco as raw material which is manufactured to be used for smoking, sucking, chewing, or snuffing.

The Ministry further wishes to remind persons that the Tobacco Control Act, Chapter 30:04, provides, inter alia:

**Section 10. (1)** *No person shall manufacture, import, export or distribute tobacco products at wholesale without first having been issued a licence.*

**Section 10. (10)** Subject to subsection (1), no person shall:

- (a) *sell any tobacco product to; or*
- (b) *purchase or acquire any tobacco product from, any manufacturer, distributor, importer, exporter or wholesaler who is not licensed under this Act.*

**Section 37. (2)** *A person who contravenes any provision of this Act for which there is no penalty prescribed, commits an offence and is liable:*

- (a) *on summary conviction, to a fine of one hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months; or*



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*(b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine of two hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for one year.*

Stakeholders and members of the public are encouraged to visit the Ministry of Health website at <https://health.gov.tt/services/tobacco-control> where you will have access to the following information:

1. Public Notice on illicit tobacco products
2. List of Tobacco Licence Holders
3. List of Tobacco Brands of Licence Holders
4. List of Offences and Penalties

For further information, please contact the Tobacco Control Unit at:

**4 - 6 Queen's Park East, Port of Spain**

**Tobacco Control Unit**

**Ministry of Health**

Telephone: 1 868 217-4664 Ext. 13830-13836

E-mail: [tobaccocontrolunit@health.gov.tt](mailto:tobaccocontrolunit@health.gov.tt)

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