



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Health

TOBACCO CONTROL UNIT

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

June 15, 2022

TCU 001-2022

MINISTRY OF HEALTH PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ministry of Health advises that all sellers, suppliers and importers of tobacco products are required to ensure full compliance with the Tobacco Control Act, Chapter 30:04 ("the Act") and the Tobacco Control Regulations, 2013 as amended by the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 ("the Regulations").

In this regard, while it remains incumbent upon the tobacco industry to familiarise themselves with all the provisions of the aforementioned Act and the Regulations, the Ministry wishes to remind sellers, suppliers and importers of tobacco products of the following:

- That the extended moratorium period for the implementation of the sixteen health messages and images on tobacco products expires with effect from **September 26, 2022**.
- Section 4 of the Act defines a seller to mean any person who supplies any tobacco product for a fee or other consideration and includes any manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, importer, exporter and retailer.
- Regulation 6(1) of the Regulations requires that the health messages and images shall be divided into two distinct sets and each set shall comprise eight distinct health messages as outlined in Schedule 1 as Set A and Set B and the sets shall be rotated in accordance with Schedule 2.



1(868) 226-7778
Ext. 6005/6007/6008/6009



www.health.gov.tt



tobaccocontrolunit@health.gov.tt

For example:

- Year 1 = Set A to commence on September 26, 2022 and end on September 25, 2023. The phasing out period to commence from the eighth month of the said year wherein Set B would be introduced commencing on May 26, 2023;
- Year 2 = Set B to commence on September 26, 2023 and end on September 25, 2024. The phasing out period to commence from the eighth month of the said year wherein Set A would be introduced commencing on May 26, 2024.

Further, Regulation 6(1) of the Regulations requires that the eight health messages and images from a respective Set are to be evenly distributed within every case.

- Regulation 9(3)(b) of the Regulations requires that the health messages and images are to be depicted on the cigarette dispensers and rotated in accordance with Schedule 2.

Further, Regulation 9(4) of the Regulations requires there should be no more than one cigarette dispenser provided per outlet.

- Section 10(1) of the Act requires that no person shall manufacture, import, export or distribute tobacco products at wholesale without first having been issued a licence.

Further, Section 10(10) of the Act requires that no person shall sell any tobacco product to or purchase or acquire any tobacco product from, any manufacturer, distributor, importer, exporter or wholesale who is not licensed under the Act.

- Section 23 of the Act provides that it is an offence to sell, offer for sale, supply or import and acquire any tobacco products that do not comply with the packaging and labelling requirements of the Act and Regulations.



- Section 37(2) of the Act provides that any person who acts in contravention of the Act commits an offence.

It is to be noted that the Act and Regulations are available on the Ministry of Health's website, (www.health.gov.tt) and the Tobacco Control Unit can be contacted by telephone at (868) 226-7778 Ext 6005-6009 or Email tobaccocontrolunit@health.gov.tt to clarify any concerns.



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