



FSS Seirbhís Náisiúnta Sláinte  
Comhshaoil

Páirc Ghnó na Gaillimhe, An Daingean,  
Gaillimh

HSE National Environmental Health  
Service

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19/02/2025

Ms. Carol Nolan TD

Dàil Eireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Nolan,

The Minister has referred PQ ref 2834/25 to the Health Service Executive for a direct reply. Please see response to your PQ below.

**Question:**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of inspections carried out by the HSE Environmental Health Service of each of manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers of e-cigarettes and refill containers during 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**Response:**

The Health Service Executive (HSE) is one of the competent authorities for the enforcement of the EU (Manufacture, Presentation and Sale of Tobacco and Related Products) Regulations 2016 as amended. These Regulations transpose the Tobacco Products Directive 2014/40/EU into law in the Republic of Ireland. The HSE National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) enforces this legislation.

In 2024, the NEHS undertook a proactive and targeted inspection and sampling programme nationally relating to the manufacture, import, distribution and retail of nicotine inhaling products. A total of 292 inspections were carried out by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) in 2024.

In addition, to these inspections EHOs took 222 samples of electronic cigarettes, which were tested by the State Laboratory for nicotine content, and volume of nicotine containing e-liquid.



As part of its inspection and sampling programme, where the NEHS finds non-compliant products enforcement action is taken. There are a number of enforcement measures available under the Public Health (Tobacco) Acts 2002-2023, and the EU (Manufacturer, Presentation and Sale of Tobacco and Related Products) Regulations 2016 as amended. In 2024, the NEHS served 17 prohibition orders on retailers directing that non-compliant products be destroyed (2225 electronic cigarettes). Furthermore, 13 prohibition orders were served on importers preventing non-compliant products (26,607Kg) entering the Irish/EU market.

For products, which had nicotine concentration greater than the legal limit of 20mg/ml, and deemed potentially hazardous, the NEHS issued nine European Safety RAPEX alerts. A RAPEX is a system for the rapid exchange of information on dangerous non-food products between European member states. For more information on RAPEX, visit <https://ec.europa.eu/safety-gate-alerts> using the words 'electronic cigarette' or refill container.

Whilst the NEHS enforces the legislation it is the responsibility of manufacturers, importers and retailers that the nicotine inhaling products that they place on the Irish market fully complies with all legislative requirements. To assist compliance the NEHS has developed and disseminated information leaflets for retailers and importers. Further information on the legal requirements and our market surveillance activities are available at these links:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/tobaccocontrol/tobaccoproductdirective/tobaccodirective.html>

And

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/envIRON/tobacco-and-related-products/>

The NEHS will continue to give its market surveillance and enforcement work in this area a high priority in 2025.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Dr. Maurice Mulcahy**

**Regional Chief Environmental Health Officer**