

Vending in the Health Services

The **2016 Healthier Vending Policy - Assessment of Compliance** was carried out on data relating to 296 vending machines across 89 HSE sites. The results indicated that there was poor compliance with the policy.

A key factor in this is the lack of availability of snack products in the market that meet the stringent nutrient profile criteria. This has made it challenging for the vending companies and health service sites to fully comply.

The key changes for Vending in the Health Services are outlined below. These have been agreed with the companies who provide vending services.



*How can
it be
improved?*



BEVERAGES

Sugar sweetened beverages will not be stocked in vending machines. The remaining will be non-sugar sweetened beverages e.g. diet drinks, juices, flavoured and sparkling water.



*These changes reflect the different types of design of vending machines



SNACKS

Snacks containing more than 200 kcals per packet will not be stocked in machines with the exemption of a few packets of dried fruits, nuts or seeds (plain and unsalted).

CALORIE POSTING PRE-PURCHASE

All vended products will **display the amount of calories**, in white writing and surround.



In 2018 the HSE **Healthy Eating Active Living** programme established a Healthier Food Environment Advisory Group to support the provision of a healthier food environment for staff and visitors across the health services.

A Vending Toolkit to support Health Services staff at site level is being developed.



Questions or comments: please email HealthyEating.ActiveLiving@hse.ie