



National Tobacco Control Office

Health Service Executive
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Co Kildare

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Re: Ban on self service sale of tobacco products and nicotine inhaling products

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to inform you that from 29th September 2025, it will be an offence to sell tobacco products or nicotine inhaling products (this includes vapes/e-cigarettes and refills) by self service.

This means customers will no longer be allowed to buy these products directly from vending machines or other self service points.

Legislation prohibiting the sale by means of self service

Section 43(1) of the Public Health (Tobacco) Acts 2002 to 2024 states:

It shall be an offence for a person to sell a tobacco product by retail, or cause a tobacco product to be sold by retail, by means of self service.

Section 26 of the Public Health (Tobacco Products and Nicotine Inhaling Products) Act 2023 states:

(1) A person shall not sell or cause to be sold a nicotine inhaling product by retail by means of self service.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a nicotine inhaling product shall be deemed to have been sold by means of self-service where the purchaser was permitted to supply himself or herself, either upon or before payment, with the nicotine inhaling product concerned whether by means of depositing of money or a token (intended to be used as a substitute for money) in a machine containing the nicotine inhaling product or otherwise.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence.

Penalties

The Health Service Executive (HSE) National Environmental Service enforces this legislation. Where a breach of legislation is established, enforcement action may be taken.

The penalties for a first offence is a maximum €4,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment and for any subsequent offences, the maximum is €5,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment.

Health policy

This legislation is designed to protect the population from the health harms associated with tobacco products and nicotine inhaling products.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Ruddy
Principal Environmental Health Officer