

Fastfacts

Recent key dates for tobacco control in Scotland

No.11 – March 2017

- 26.03.06** Smoking is banned in the majority of enclosed public places in Scotland by the [Smoking, Health and Social Care Act](#)
- 01.10.07** The [minimum purchase age](#) for tobacco increases from 16 to 18
- 01.10.07** The UK becomes the first EU country to introduce graphic health warnings to all tobacco products. Under the [regulations](#) all cigarette packets sold in the UK after 1 October 2009 were required to carry the new warnings, all other tobacco products had until 1 October 2010 to comply
- 01.04.11** The Scottish Tobacco Retailers Register opens, any retailer wishing to sell tobacco must sign up to the register
- 17.11.11** All cigarettes sold in the European Union are required to meet new [EU safety standards](#) for reduced ignition propensity from this date
- 27.03.13** The Scottish Government launches a new [tobacco control strategy](#) setting 2034 as the target date for a tobacco-free Scotland
- 29.04.13** The tobacco display ban enters into force for larger retailers in Scotland, along with the ban on self-serving cigarette vending machines. Smaller retailers had until 6 April 2015 to comply with the [Tobacco and Primary Medical Services Act](#)
- 03.03.15** A major new national TV and radio campaign launches to inform the Scottish public that smoking in NHS grounds is drawing to a close. All NHS grounds across Scotland became smoke-free by 31st March 2015
- 05.12.16** Smoking in vehicles carrying anyone under the age of 18 becomes illegal under the [Smoking Prohibition \(Children in Motor Vehicles\) \(Scotland\) Act](#)
- 20.05.16** The [revised EU Tobacco Products Directive](#) is implemented, bringing in various new and updated [regulations](#) for tobacco products and e-cigarettes. Also, new [UK regulations](#) required all cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco produced for sale in the UK to be in standardised packs. From 20 May 2017, only cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco in plain packs can legally be sold
- 01.04.17** New measures will come into effect under the [Health \(Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care\) \(Scotland\) Act](#) including: prohibiting the sale of nicotine vapour products (NVPs) to under 18s; requiring retailers who sell NVPs to have an age verification policy; prohibiting under-18s from selling tobacco or NVPs unless authorised by Responsible Person, and extend the Scottish Tobacco Retailers Register to NVP retailers