

Monday 30 April 2007

Space to breathe for everyone in Northern Ireland

From Monday 30 April 2007, most workplaces, public places and certain vehicles in Northern Ireland will be smoke-free. This leaflet explains what the new smoke-free law will mean for you and what to expect when it is introduced.

What the law means

From Monday 30 April 2007 it will be against the law to smoke in enclosed and substantially enclosed workplaces and public places and in certain vehicles. A guidance pack (see below) will explain what is meant by "enclosed" and "substantially enclosed". The law covers almost all enclosed and substantially enclosed workplaces including restaurants, bars, cafes, hotels, theatres, bingo halls, church halls, leisure centres, shopping centres, schools, hospitals, and all clubs. It also covers vehicles including lorries, vans, taxis and public transport.

What you can do

No-smoking signs, like the one shown here to the right, must be displayed in enclosed and substantially enclosed workplaces and public places. Certain vehicles must also display signage. If you see someone smoking or if no-smoking signage is not displayed in an enclosed or substantially enclosed workplace or public place, inform the owner or manager of the premises. If this doesn't resolve the problem you can contact a compliance line, which will be in operation from Monday 30 April 2007, when the new law comes into force. Calls to this line will be charged at local rate and all complaints will be investigated. More information about the compliance line and the telephone number to call will be available at www.spacetobreathe.org.uk during April 2007.

Employers and managers must ensure that employees and visitors don't smoke in enclosed and substantially enclosed workplaces and public places and in certain vehicles. If you are an employer or manager you should receive a guidance pack, including free no-smoking signage, by 15 April 2007. If you do not receive this pack please request a copy from your district council's Environmental Health Department. The guidance pack and free signage will also be available to download at www.spacetobreathe.org.uk during March 2007. This website is now live and will be regularly updated with information and

guidance about the new law as the details become available. Please visit the website regularly to get the most up-to-date guidance.

Why do we need this new law?

We need this law to protect people from the proven health risks of second-hand smoke including stroke, heart disease and lung cancer.

Who will enforce the law?

The law will be enforced by authorised officers employed by district councils.



What are the penalties for breaking the law?

- If you break the law by smoking in an enclosed or substantially enclosed workplace, public place or in a smoke-free vehicle you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice or be prosecuted.
- If you allow a person to smoke in an enclosed or substantially enclosed workplace, public place or in a smoke-free vehicle which you own or manage, you may be prosecuted.
- If you fail to display appropriate no-smoking signage in an enclosed or substantially enclosed workplace, public place or in a smoke-free vehicle that you occupy, own or manage, you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice or be prosecuted for failure to display appropriate signage.

Free signage and guidance on the smoke-free legislation will be available to download at www.spacetobreathe.org.uk during March 2007.

Where can I get more information?

The Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (the Order) was made on 14 November 2006. Regulations to underpin the Order are still being finalised. Please visit www.spacetobreathe.org.uk regularly, as this website will be updated with useful questions and answers as more information becomes available. You may also wish to contact the Environmental Health Department at your district council.

Second-hand smoke – the facts

What is second-hand smoke?

Second-hand smoke is the term used to describe the gases and particles in the air that result from smoking tobacco. Second-hand smoke contains around 4,000 chemicals, including arsenic, benzene, formaldehyde and ammonia.

What are the health risks of second-hand smoke?

Second-hand smoke isn't just irritating to the eyes, nose and throat, it is now clear that it can increase the risk of:

- **lung cancer by 20–30%;**
- **heart disease by at least 25%;**
- **asthma by 40–60%;**
- **stroke by 80%.**

Second-hand smoke and ventilation

There is no known safe level of exposure to the dangerous chemicals in second-hand smoke and 85% of it is odourless and invisible. Opening windows or using ventilation systems doesn't remove all the harmful chemicals found in second-hand smoke. It would take a tornado-strength level of ventilation to reduce the health risks significantly.

Giving up smoking

If you are a smoker and want to take this opportunity to give up you can call the Smokers' Helpline free on **0800 85 85 85** for friendly help and advice. The Smokers' Helpline can also give you details of your local stop smoking support services. If you would like to talk to someone face-to-face about giving up smoking you can speak to your GP or local pharmacist.

Northern Ireland goes smoke-free from

Monday 30th



April 2007

giving everyone space to breathe

www.spacetobreathe.org.uk