

United Arab Emirates

Tobacco Control Policies

The United Arab Emirates became a Party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on February 5, 2006.

Smoke Free Places: The law prohibits smoking in certain enclosed public spaces and public transport. Some of these places and means of transport may have designated smoking areas, but healthcare, educational, and sports facilities and places of worship shall not have smoking areas. With respect to outdoor places, areas adjacent to educational, health, and sports facilities; places of worship; and industrial facilities are smoke free.

Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship: Tobacco advertising is prohibited in all print and electronic media, including at the point-of-sale. Free and discounted tobacco products also are prohibited, but some point of sale product display and tobacco product brand stretching are allowed. There are some restrictions on tobacco sponsorship and the publicity of such sponsorship.

Tobacco Packaging and Labeling: Health warnings are pictorial and text and cover no less than 50 percent of the bottom of tobacco product packaging's main display areas (e.g., front and back). The government rotates the warnings "as required by the public interest." Misleading terms such as "light" and "low tar" are prohibited on tobacco packaging, but other misleading packaging (e.g., colors, numbers, and symbols) is not prohibited.

Tobacco Taxation and Prices: The World Health Organization recommends raising tobacco excise taxes so that they account for at least 70 percent of retail prices. Tobacco excise taxes in the United Arab Emirates are well below these recommendations.

SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENTS COMPLETE SMOKING BAN			
Health-care facilities	Yes	Private offices	No
Primary and secondary schools	Yes	Public transport	Uncertain
Universities	Yes	Restaurants	No
Governmental facilities	No	Bars and Pubs	No
Can subnational jurisdictions enact more stringent smoking restrictions?	Yes		
BANS ON TOBACCO ADVERTISING, PROMOTION, AND SPONSORSHIP			
Domestic TV and radio	Yes	Promotional discounts	Yes
Domestic magazines and newspapers	Yes	Non-tobacco products or services with tobacco brand names	Yes
Outdoor advertising	Yes	Tobacco products with non-tobacco brand names	Yes
Outdoor advertising (e.g., billboards, posters)	Yes	Paid placement in media	Yes
Retail product display	No	Financial sponsorship, including corporate social responsibility	Yes
Internet advertising	Yes	Publicity of sponsorships	Yes
Free distribution	Yes		
HEALTH WARNINGS ON SMOKED TOBACCO PRODUCTS			
Text warnings describe health impacts	Yes	Number of published warnings at any given time	6
Warnings include a picture or graphic	Yes	Warnings required to rotate	Uncertain
% of principal display areas covered (front and back)	50%	Warnings are written in the principal language(s)	Yes
Front	50%	Ban on misleading packaging and labeling	Yes
Back	50%	Health warnings on smokeless tobacco products	Yes
TOBACCO TAXATION AND PRICE			
PRICE OF MOST SOLD BRAND, PACK OF 20 CIGARETTES		TAXES ON MOST SOLD BRAND (% OF RETAIL PRICE)	
In country currency	21.00 AED	Total taxes	73%
In US dollars	5.72 USD	Total excise	49%

Sources:

SF, APS, PL: Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Legal Website. Available at: www.tobaccocontrolaws.org

Tax: WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2021. Available at: www.who.int/tobacco/global_report/en/

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