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Ministry of Public Health
Decree No. 650
Pictorial Health Warnings Required to Appear on Tobacco Product Packaging

The President of the Republic,
Pursuant to the Constitution,
Pursuant to Law No. 174 dated August 29, 2011 (Smoking Control and Regulation of Tobacco Products' Manufacturing, Packaging and Advertising),
Pursuant to Legislative Decree No. 340 dated March 1, 1943, as amended (Penal Code), particularly Article 770 thereof,
Pursuant to the proposal of the Ministers of Public Health and Finance,
After consulting the Lebanese Standards Institution (Opinion No. 499/2019 dated November 29, 2019),
After consulting the State Consultative Council (Opinion No. 310/2020-2021 dated November 10, 2020),
And after obtaining the approval of the Council of Ministers on March 23, 2022,

The following is hereby decreed:

Article 1: Definitions and Terms:

All of the following definitions and terms, originally outlined in Law No. 174 dated August 29, 2011 (Law on Smoking Control and Regulation of Tobacco Products' Manufacturing, Packaging and Advertising), shall be exclusively adopted for the interpretation and application of all provisions of this decree:

— Accessories and Supplies: A product that can be used in connection with the consumption of a tobacco product, in particular a pipe, hookah, cigar cutter, matches, or a lighter.

- Retailer: A person who operates an establishment wholly or partially dedicated to the direct sale of tobacco products to consumers.
- Brand: Includes a trademark, trade name associated with a trademark, symbol, distinctive mark, and any design or logo that can be associated with a product, service, or product or service mark, excluding color.
- Packaging: A container or wrapper in which tobacco products are sold.
- Varieties: The different levels of nicotine, tar, and carbon monoxide. The Council of Ministers may add items to this definition by decree, on a proposal from the Ministers of Finance and Public Health.
- Person: A natural or legal person.
- Manufacturer: Any person who, by any means, manufactures tobacco products, their supplies, and accessories, whether directly or indirectly.
- Importer: Any person who imports, distributes, or wholesales any tobacco product.
- Supply: The sale, offer for sale, loan, delivery, or transfer to another person, whether free of charge or for consideration, or in exchange for a product or service.
- Minor: A natural person who has not reached the age of eighteen.
- Tobacco product: A product made from tobacco, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco-like substances, including leaves and leaf extracts such as pipes, rolling paper, and cigarette filters.
- Tobacco alternatives: Devices – whether electronic or otherwise – that often contain nicotine, flavorings, or other chemicals that are converted into vapor inhaled by the smoker, as well as all devices that resemble tobacco products, including electronic hookahs.
- Advertising and Promotions: Direct or indirect advertising or promotion of tobacco through news, commercial information, or marketing materials directed at the public that are broadcast, written, or illustrated to promote any product, by any visual or audio advertising medium or printed, electronic, or other media.
- Brand Sharing: The use of a brand name, including distinctive color combinations, on a non-tobacco product or for a service unrelated to tobacco.
- Sponsorship: Any form of contribution made to an event, activity, or person to promote a tobacco product or tobacco use, either directly or indirectly.
- Enclosed public places: Places accessible to the public or used collectively, regardless of ownership.

Enclosed public places include, but are not limited to, all official departments, offices, and their affiliated centers, including public institutions and companies; hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies; cinemas and theaters; all public and private mass transit systems; schools and universities; elevators; restaurants; amusement parks; and shopping malls.

Any space mentioned in the paragraph above that is covered by a single roof and bounded by more than two walls is considered an enclosed public space, regardless of the type of materials used in the construction of the roof or walls, and regardless of whether the structure is permanent or temporary.

Healthcare, educational, and sports facilities of all kinds, along with their attached and open-air annexes, are considered enclosed public places:

- Smoking: Possessing or controlling a combustible tobacco product, regardless of whether the smoke is inhaled or exhaled voluntarily.
- Workplace: Any place used jointly by people while performing their duties or work, whether for pay or voluntarily. It also includes all related or associated places workers use jointly, including, for example, hallways, elevators, stairs, lobbies, shared facilities, cafes, restrooms, break rooms, and dining rooms, as well as ancillary buildings such as workshops. Vehicles used during work are also considered workplaces.
- Public transportation: Any vehicle used to transport the public.

Article 2: The purpose of this decree is to apply pictorial health warnings (as stipulated in Article 8 (C) of Law No. 174 dated August 29, 2011) to all types of tobacco product packages, to convince the broadest segment of society of the harmful effects of smoking and its toxic emissions.

Article 3: No natural or legal person – including manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, or retailers – shall offer for sale or market any tobacco product unless the packaging bears a statement regarding the risks and harmful effects of the product on human health, as outlined in the pictorial warnings included in the appendix to this decree.

Article 4: Appendix I to this decree contains the pictorial health warnings that must be displayed on tobacco product packages. Appendix II is dedicated to warnings specific to hookah tobacco packaging.

Article 5: The pictorial warnings listed in Appendices I and II, referred to in the preceding article, are divided into two groups: Group "A" and Group "B." Each group contains a specific number of pictorial warnings. The first group of warnings (Group "A") shall be in effect for 12 months, followed by the second group (Group "B") for another 12 months.

Thus, the rotation system between the two groups shall continue. Each group shall be used periodically for the specified duration, followed by the other group. The implementation of the first group ("A") shall begin on the date of publication of this decree.

Article 6: The pictorial warning on the packaging of a tobacco product must cover an area of no less than 40% of the surface on which it is placed. The same warning must appear on both the front and back of the package, so that the two warnings together cover no less than 40% of the total surface area of the package.

Article 7: Pictorial health warnings on tobacco product packets or packages must comply with the following specifications and standards:

1. Pictorial health warnings must be printed on the exterior of the package and not on the transparent film covering the package.
2. Pictorial health warnings must be printed on the lower part of the side on which they appear. If the width of the package is greater than its length, the warnings shall be placed horizontally rather than vertically, in a manner appropriate to the shape of the package.
3. Pictorial health warnings must be printed using electronic files issued by the Ministry of Public Health. Note that these may be modified to accommodate different package sizes without affecting the integrity of the graphic or the warning.
4. The warnings must be printed using a color model based on at least four distinct colors (CMYK).
5. The same warning must appear on both the front and back of the package.
6. The provisions of this decree apply to all tobacco products sold in stores located in free zones.
7. Pictorial warnings must be affixed in such a way that they cannot be removed, erased, or concealed by any means.
8. It is prohibited to print pictorial warnings on tax and fiscal stamps affixed to the boxes or packages of tobacco products.
9. Pictorial warnings must be affixed in such a way as to prevent permanent damage to them when the package is opened and used.
10. The size of the pictorial health warnings must be calculated as a proportion of the size of the package when it is closed.
11. For tobacco products other than cigarettes (including, but not limited to, hookah tobacco, etc.), pictorial health warnings may be affixed using non-removable labels.
12. For cylindrical packets, the warnings must appear twice, provided that the two warnings cover an area of at least 40% of the total surface area of the packet and are displayed clearly without being obscured by the package cover.

Article 8: The sale of empty containers intended for storing tobacco products or for concealing them is prohibited. The sale of any product that would conceal or cover the pictorial health warnings on the packages or containers is also prohibited.

Article 9: The sale, marketing, distribution, or display of any tobacco product is prohibited unless it complies with the provisions of this decree.

Article 10: Members of the judicial police, the Regie Libanaise de Tabacs et Tombacs (RLTT), and the health inspectors at the Ministry of Public Health, as well as the enforcement officers of the Consumer Protection Directorate at the Ministry of Economy and Trade and the Tourism Police, shall, within the limits of their respective jurisdictions and authorities, monitor the proper implementation of the provisions of this decree, detect violations, and confiscate packages of products subject to inspection, and all related items that violate the provisions of this decree, as well as prepare reports documenting such violations for referral to the competent authorities.

Article 11: Violation of the provisions of this decree subjects the perpetrators to the penalties stipulated in Law No. 174 dated August 29, 2011 (especially Article 17 thereof) and to the penalties outlined in Article 770 of the Lebanese Penal Code.

Article 12: The first and second sets of pictorial health warnings shall be revised every two years by decision of the Minister of Public Health.

Article 13: All decrees and decisions that contravene the provisions of this decree or are inconsistent with its content are hereby repealed.

Article 14: This decree shall be published and communicated as necessary, and shall enter into force one year after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Baabda, July 10, 2025
Signed: Joseph Aoun

Issued by the President of the Republic
Prime Minister
Signed: Nawaf Salam

Minister of Tourism
Signed: Laura Al-Khazen Lahoud

Minister of Economy and Trade
Signed: Amer Al-Bsat

Minister of the Interior and Municipalities
Signed: Ahmad Al-Hajjar

Minister of Public Health
Signed: Rakan Nasir Al-Din

Minister of Finance
Signed: Yassin Jaber

Justification for the Draft Decree Concerning Pictorial Warnings Required to Appear on Tobacco Product Packaging

Whereas the Lebanese government has enacted legislation to curb smoking and regulate the manufacturing, packaging, and advertising of tobacco products pursuant to Law No. 174 dated August 29, 2011,

Whereas the aforementioned Law No. 174 refers in Article 8, paragraph (C), to the issuance of a decree regarding the placement of Pictorial health warnings on the two main surfaces of the package, covering forty percent (40%) of the area of each surface,

Whereas smoking has evolved from a phenomenon in Lebanese society into a harmful social and health scourge,

Since local and international studies have confirmed that smoking is the primary and fundamental cause of cancer, particularly lung cancer, as well as countless other diseases prevalent in Lebanese society,

Since Lebanon is among the countries combating smoking through the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention and through the National Tobacco Control Program,

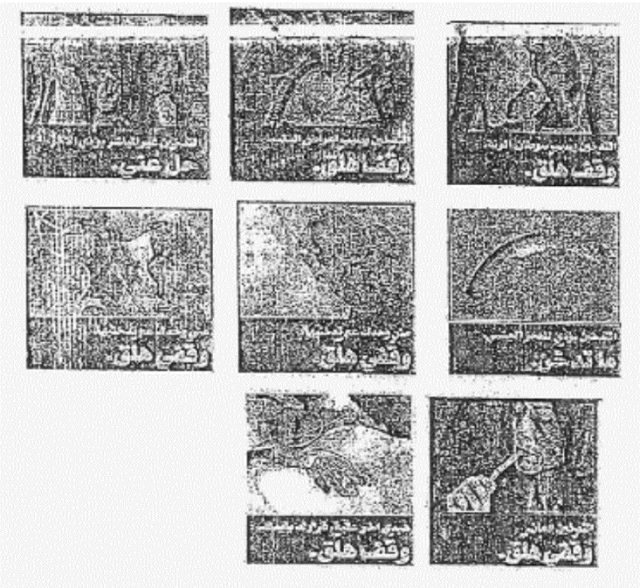
And since it has become imperative to increase warnings and awareness of the harm caused by smoking through targeted, factual pictorial warnings that reflect the effects of smoking on the health of smokers and those around them,

The Ministry of Public Health has prepared the attached draft decree regarding the pictorial warnings that must appear on tobacco product packaging, following consultations with the relevant authorities and consideration of their opinions, particularly the Ministry of Finance, the State Consultative Council, and the Lebanese Standards Institution. We hope that you will approve it and enact it into law.

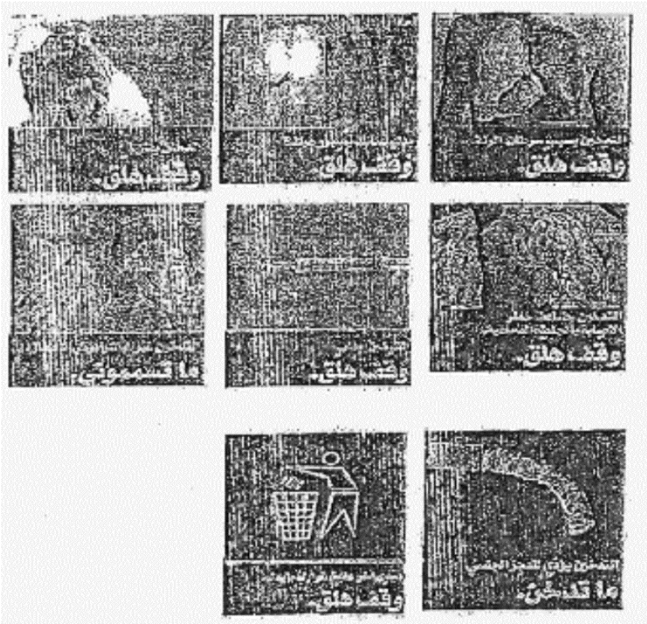
Unofficial Translation

Appendix I

Group 1 (A)



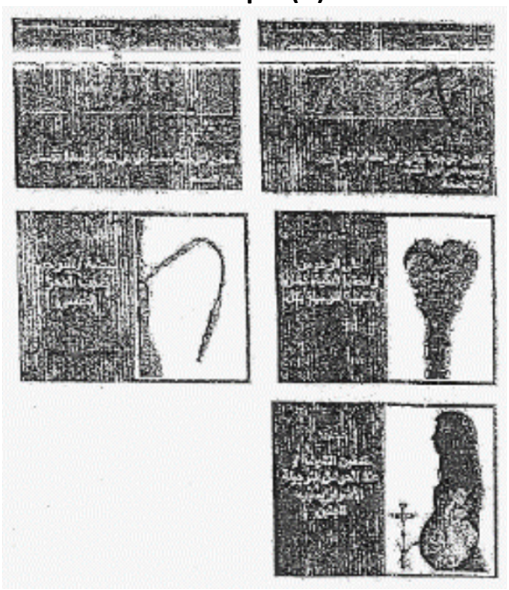
Group 2 (B)



Unofficial Translation

Appendix II

Group 1 (A)



Group 2 (B)

