

Decree No. 8991
Health Warnings that shall be written
On tobacco products packs

The President of the Republic,

According to constitution,

According to law No. 174 of 29 August 2011 (Tobacco Control and Regulation of Tobacco Products' Manufacturing, Packaging and Advertising) especially articles 7, 8, 14 and 17 thereof,

According to decree-law No. 340 of 1 March 1943 and its amendments (Penal Code) especially article 770 thereof,

And upon the suggestion of the Minister of Public Health and the Minister of Finance and the opinion poll of the Lebanese Standards Institution (Opinion No. 58 of 6 March 2012),

And after consulting the State Council (Opinion No. 88/2011-2012 of 19 December 2011 and Opinion No. 213/2011-2012 of 2 May 2012),

And after the approval of Council of Ministers in 12 June 2012.

Decides the following:

Article 1: Each natural or moral individual engaged in the manufacture, the importation, the distribution or in the wholesale selling of any of the tobacco products shall write in Arabic on each of the tobacco products packs health warnings describing the harmful effects caused by tobacco.

Article 2: The list of health warnings that shall be written on the tobacco products packs includes two types of warnings:

- A- A general basic warning to link directly between death and smoking represented by one of the following two statements:
"Smoking kills" and "Smoking leads to fatal and serious diseases".
- B- Additional warnings concerning the harmful and negative effects caused by tobacco represented exclusively by the following statements:
 - 1- Smoking doubles the risk of stroke.
 - 2- Smoking causes Oral and Laryngeal Cancer
 - 3- Smoking causes Lung Cancer and diseases
 - 4- Smoking causes heart diseases
 - 5- Smoking causes clogged arteries and veins
 - 6- Smoking causes impotency
 - 7- Smoking during pregnancy harms the fetus
 - 8- Second-hand smoking harms others

9- Smoking causes Skin Aging

10- Smokers die early

Article 3: The two essential health warnings mentioned in the second article shall be written on the lower part of the front side of all tobacco packs as shown in the chart in Appendix 1 attached to this decree. The additional health warnings shall be written periodically on the lower part of the rear side of the pack in a way that guarantees its regular presence in the markets.

Article 4: The list of health warnings concerning the fatal and harmful effects of water pipes includes the following sentences:

- 1- Smoking water pipe leads to slow and painful death
- 2- Smoking water pipe leads to early death
- 3- The tobacco of water pipes contains toxic substances that lead to dangerous and fatal diseases
- 4- Water used in water pipes does not prevent poisons from reaching your body
- 5- Protect your children. Do not expose them to water pipe smoke.

One of the health warnings of the water pipe shall be written on the front side of the water pipe tobacco pack provided that one of the health warnings mentioned in the Second article of this decree shall be written on the rear side of the pack.

Article 5: Both health warnings written on the tobacco product pack shall cover at least 40% of the total surface of the side on which the warning is written in a way that both warnings combined cover at least 40% of the total surface of the pack.

Article 6: Health warnings written on the tobacco products packs shall be written according to the following specifications:

- 1- They shall be printed in a black rectangular frame or a box with a broad line that does not exceed 3 mm. This latter shall not constitute a part of the 40% stipulated in Article 5 of this decree.
- 2- Warnings shall be printed on the external side of the pack and not on any laminating of the pack.
- 3- Warnings shall be printed using a broad black line on a white background using big simplified characters that are easy to read.
- 4- Warnings shall be printed within the specific frame in parallel with the pack lower edge.
- 5- It shall be impossible to remove, erase or hide the warnings by all means.
- 6- Warning text shall fill the whole specific frame.
- 7- It is prohibited to print or write health warnings on tax or financial stamps existing on the tobacco products packs.

Article 7: It is prohibited to sell, promote, distribute or display any tobacco product unless its specifications comply with the provisions of this decree.

Each member of the judicial police, Lebanese Regie for Tobacco, health inspectors of the Ministry of Public Health and the Directorate of Consumer Protection in the Ministry of Economy and Trade as well as the tourist police will be in charge, every party within its jurisdiction, of detecting irregularities and confiscating the tobacco products packs not complying with the provisions of this decree and of processing records of evidence in order to refer them to the competent authorities.

Article 8: whoever breaches the provisions of this decree shall be subject to the sanctions stipulated in article 17 of law No. 174 of 29 August 2011 and article 770 of Penal Code.

Article 9: The provisions of all decrees and resolutions contradicting the provisions of this decree and non-complying with its content shall be deemed void and null.

Article 10: This decree shall be published and be referred to when necessary. This decree enters into force one year after its publication in the official gazette.

Baabda, 29 September 2012
Signature: Michel Sleiman

Issued by the President of the Republic
The Prime Minister
Signature: Mohammad Najib Mikaty

Minister of Interior and Municipalities
Signature: Marwan Charbel

Minister of Tourism
Signature: Fadi Abboud

Minister of Economy and Trade
Signature: Nicolas Nahas

Minister of Public Health
Signature: Ali Hassan Khalil

Minister of Industry
Signature: Freij Sabounjian

Minister of Finance
Signature: Mohammed Safadi

