

Implementation timeline for the new phase of tobacco control measures

Tobacco control measures	Effective date
<p>Increase penalties for duty-not-paid tobacco</p> <p>List the relevant offences under the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance to enable the Customs and Excise Department to freeze assets associated with illicit tobacco activities.</p> <p>Increase the penalty for offences of failing to declare to Customs Officers compoundable under the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance from \$2,000 to \$5,000.</p> <p>Require that cigarettes sold at a price lower than the tobacco duty be proved to be duty-paid</p> <p>Prohibit the provision of smoking products (including conventional smoking products and alternative smoking products (ASPs)) to persons aged below 18</p>	<p>19 September 2025 (i.e. the date of gazettal of the Amendment Ordinance)</p>
<p>Implement a duty stamp system for cigarettes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A pilot scheme is targeted to be rolled out in early October 2025 ■ First phase to be launched in fourth quarter of 2026 ■ Target for full implementation in Q2 2027
<p>Prohibit smoking while queuing</p> <p>Extend statutory no-smoking areas to within three-metres of the entrances and exits of specified places.</p> <p>Increase the fixed penalty for smoking offences from \$1,500 to \$3,000</p>	<p>1 January 2026</p>
<p>Ban the possession of ASP substances (i.e. e-liquid/capsules/heat sticks) in public places</p>	<p>30 April 2026</p>
<p>Implement plain packaging requirement</p>	<p>This requirement is planned to take effect in tandem with the duty stamp system in second quarter of 2027.</p>
<p>Ban flavoured conventional smoking products</p>	<p>After full implementation of the duty stamp system and plain packaging requirement (i.e. after second quarter of 2027)</p>

Note: The other two short-term measures, namely “continuously reviewing the effectiveness of increasing tobacco duty and the pace of future adjustments” and “strengthening smoking cessation services as well as publicity and education”, are ongoing and do not involve legislative amendments.



Hong Kong
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