



Tobacco Control Office
National Environmental Health Service
Oak House, Millennium Park
Naas, Co. Kildare W91 KDC2

Ph: 1800 333100
Ph: 045 988204 / 045 988206

28 January 2026

Re: Public Health (Tobacco Products and Nicotine Inhaling Products) Act 2023

Licence for Sale of Tobacco Products or Nicotine Inhaling Products

To whom it may concern

I wish to draw your attention to the provisions of the Public Health (Tobacco Products and Nicotine Inhaling Products) Act 2023 coming into effect on 2 February 2026.

Those wishing to sell tobacco products and/or nicotine inhaling products by retail must apply to the Health Service Executive (HSE) for a licence. Retailers already registered to sell tobacco products or selling nicotine inhaling products before 2 February 2026 have six months to apply for a licence.

A separate licence is required for each premises and for each website (or otherwise online) retailing these products.

The annual fees are:

- €1,000 for tobacco products
- €800 for nicotine inhaling products
- €1,800 for **both** tobacco and nicotine inhaling products

Please find attached a frequently asked questions document on licensing.

Further information on how to apply for a licence and to submit an application will be available from **2 February** at hse.ie/tobacco-nicotine-licence

I would be grateful if you would bring this correspondence to the attention of your members and other interested parties.

The National Environmental Health Service looks forward to your co-operation. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at tobacconehs@hse.ie

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Ruddy', with a small circular stamp or mark below it.

Margaret Ruddy
Principal Environmental Health Officer

Frequently Asked Questions

Licensing of Tobacco and/or Nicotine Inhaling Products Retailers

Question / Topic	Key Information
What is the new licensing system about?	It is now a legal requirement under the Public Health (Tobacco Products and Nicotine Inhaling Products) Act 2023 for retailers of tobacco products and nicotine inhaling products to apply to the Health Service Executive for a licence to sell these products. The existing tobacco registration system is replaced by licensing from 2 February 2026. • A separate licence is required for each premises and each website.
When does the licensing system come into effect?	Licensing comes into effect on 2 February 2026. Retailers of tobacco products already registered with the Health Service Executive have six months to apply for a licence. Those currently selling nicotine inhaling products have six months to apply. A separate licence is required for each premises, ship and for each website (or otherwise online). Retailers of tobacco or nicotine inhaling products entering the marketplace from 2 February 2026 must apply for a licence.
Who needs a licence?	Any person selling tobacco products or nicotine inhaling products by retail must hold a licence. This includes where you are selling from a physical shop, website (otherwise online) or ship. A separate licence is required for each premises and website. Applicants must be aged 18 years or over.
What is a tobacco product?	A tobacco product includes cigarettes, cigarette papers, cigarette tips, cigars, roll your own tobacco, novel tobacco and other tobacco-related products.

What is a nicotine inhaling product?	A nicotine inhaling product includes e-cigarettes, vapes and refill containers containing nicotine.
Who can apply?	• You must be 18 years of age or over. • You must have an in-force Tax Clearance Certificate from Revenue. • If your licence is currently suspended by order of the court, you are not permitted to apply during the suspension period.
Are there premises that cannot be licensed?	A person may not apply for a licence for a temporary or moveable premises such as market stalls, pop-up shops, festival stalls.
What is the licence fee and duration?	The annual fees are: €1,000 for tobacco products. €800 for nicotine inhaling products. €1,800 for both. Licences are valid for 12 months. A separate licence is required for each premises and website.
How do I apply for a licence?	Applications are made via the National Environmental Health Service Online Portal: https://ehonline.hse.ie/ 1. Sign in to your account or create one. 2. Go to Tobacco Products and Nicotine Inhaling Products licences. 3. Create your organisation 4. Submit your application. 5. You can apply for multiple premises via your online portal account. 6. Go to the shopping cart and completes payment
What is My Organisation in the Portal and how is it validated?	My Organisation is your business profile in the portal. My Organisation represents your business entity. Setting it up allows the system to pre-verify your details, reducing errors and confirming eligibility upfront. This one-time setup streamlines the application for multiple tobacco or nicotine inhaling product licences, making future applications significantly faster and more efficient. How is validation of My Organisation carried out? The following key business information is validated:

	• Business email: Validated during setup • Tax registration and Registered company detail (if applicable) - The system makes a real-time request to Revenue's Electronic Tax Clearance Verification service and Companies Registrations Office Can I add additional users to my organisation? Members can add and remove users to be associated with the organisation. Once the person accepts an invitation, they can manage license applications, payments, and print licences for that organisation.
What must I do once I get a licence?	The licence must be prominently displayed at the point of sale. For sales online, details of the licence must be displayed on the website of the licensee (or otherwise online) Any significant changes must be notified to the HSE.
What are the offences for non-compliance?	Selling without a licence is an offence. If you sell tobacco products and/or nicotine inhaling products without a licence you are committing an offence and may result in the service of a prohibition notice and/or prosecution. A person who contravenes tobacco legislation and on prosecution by the HSE is convicted in court may be liable to a fine up to €4,000 or to an imprisonment term up to 6 months or both, depending on the offence committed.
Who enforces this legislation?	This legislation is enforced by HSE Environmental Health Officers.