
Changes to the Smokefree Signage Law

The Health Act 2006 stipulated in detail what smokefree signage should be displayed at entrances to public places (including workplaces) and in vehicles. These regulations have been relaxed under the Red Tape Challenge.

Previous requirements

The 2007 Regulations made detailed requirements about the design and location of no-smoking signs, in particular that in smokefree premises a prescribed no-smoking sign must be displayed at each entrance to the premises.

The key features of the required signs were:

1. The sign must incorporate the no-smoking symbol at least 70mm in diameter
2. The following words must appear in characters that can be easily read – ‘No smoking. It is against the law to smoke in these premises.’
3. Each sign must be displayed in a prominent position

New duty to display no-smoking signs in smoke-free premises

The provisions in section 6 of the 2006 Act remain unchanged. Section 6 places a duty on any person who occupies or is concerned in the management of smoke-free premises to make sure that no-smoking signs are displayed in those premises that comply with section 6 and the Regulations.

The major change is that the only requirement in the 2012 Regulations is in regulation 3, that to fulfill the duty at section 6(1) of the Act, at least one legible no-smoking sign is displayed in smoke-free premises. There are no other requirements as to the size, shape, content or location of no-smoking signs in smoke-free premises.

New duty to display no-smoking signs in smokefree vehicles

To ensure that smoke-free vehicles are treated in the same way as smokefree premises, and that their managers are subject to

equivalent duties, the only requirement for smokefree vehicles is provided by Regulation 2. It is a duty on any person with management responsibilities for a smoke-free vehicle to ensure that at least one legible no-smoking sign is displayed in the vehicle. As with signs in premises, there are no requirements as to the size, shape, content, or location of no-smoking signs in vehicles.

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