



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
THE QUADRANGLE
BANJUL

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Ref: HP 347/489/01 (ALS)

6th October, 2020

TO ALL TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS, DISTRIBUTORS AND SELLERS IN THE
GAMBIA

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF COMMENCEMENT OF GRAPHIC HEALTH WARNINGS AND MESSAGES ON
ALL TOBACCO PRODUCTS FOR SALE IN THE GAMBIA**

I wish to bring to the notice of all manufacturers, importers, distributors and sellers of tobacco products in the Republic of The Gambia that the Tobacco Control Act 2016 and the Tobacco Control Regulations 2019 are now in force.

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 14 and 15 of the Tobacco Control Act 2016, all tobacco products for sale in The Gambia must bear the prescribed graphic health warnings and health messages. The prescribed graphic health warnings and health messages must cover seventy-five per cent (75%) of the principal display area of every tobacco package. To bring to effect the provisions of this law and in line with section 44 of the Tobacco Control Act 2016, The Minister of Health in July 2019 gazetted the Tobacco Control Regulations of 2019. Part II of the Regulations contains Regulations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 that provide clear guidance on what is required of the manufacturers, importers, distributors and sellers with regard to packaging and labeling of tobacco products.

By copy of this letter, notice is hereby given to all manufacturers, importers, distributors and sellers of tobacco products that they are obliged to comply fully with all the provisions of the Tobacco Control Act 2016 and the Tobacco Control Regulations 2019 described above. The Ministry of Health has developed the prescribed digital technical samples of the graphic health warnings and health messages and guidance on steps for approval of designs of the packaging and labelling on tobacco products that are compliant with the law. All package design samples must be presented to the Secretary to the Tobacco Control Committee for approval by the committee.

Pursuant to this notice, you are hereby granted a period of 3 months from the date of issue of this notice to implement the prescribed graphic health warnings and health messages in full compliance with the Tobacco Control Act 2016 and the Tobacco Control Regulations 2019. The 3 months' notice given thereof for the implementation of the graphic health warning and health messages shall commence on 6th October 2020 and end on 6th January 2021. Samples of the prescribed graphic health warnings and messages are available for at the Tobacco Control Secretariat, Non-Communicable Disease Unit, Directorate of Health Promotion and Education, Central Medical Station, Banjul complex.



Hon. Ahmadou Lamin Samateh
Minister of Health



Cc: Hon. Attorney General & Minister of Justice
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Culture
Permanent Secretary Ministry of Youth and Sports
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information
Commissioner General Gambia Revenue Authority
Director, Gambia Bureau of Standards
Director General, Gambia Revenue Authority
Inspector General of Police
Chairman, Tobacco Control Committee
Secretary, Tobacco Control Committee
File